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A made-over Oregon  
ski lodge. PHOTO BY:  
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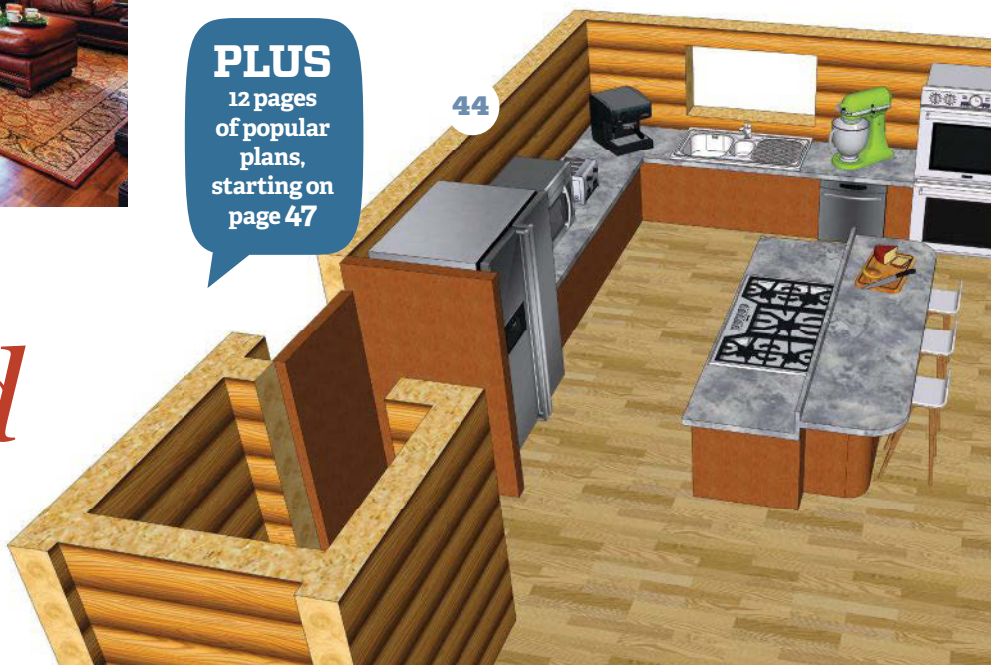


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# 3-PART HARMONY



**L**og homes aren't just about the logs. They might seem to be, but to paraphrase Julius Caesar: "All is divided into three parts."

Logs play only one of the parts. The others are Land and Look. All affect the home's design. Logs, while they support the building, also influence Look.

Look has an outside and an inside. So do the logs. Outside, they signify and dominate. Inside, they act with other ingredients, most notably the furniture. Furniture, sometimes more than logs, determines the interior look. Balancing logs and furniture requires coordination but aesthetic, not physical (beyond the effort required to rearrange furniture).

Speaking of rearranging, you can always change furniture to alter the inside look. Your logs, however, will never change.

It would be possible to create the illusion of change by concealing your logs with floor-to-ceiling drapes. They do make colorful perimeters, although if you're that determined to deny your log walls, move. Take down the drapes before putting your log home on the market, though. The right buyer will be looking for lots o' logs.

That's the case with our Home of the Month. We usually tell the story of our featured homes from the point of view of the owners. After all, they're the ones who went through the process of planning, buying and building their dream. Their experience can inform and inspire you.

This month's home is different. The owners bought it already built and fully furnished. They loved the logs but didn't like the inside look, so they hired interior designer Evelyn Green to re-do it. As you'll see, she did more than just rearrange the furniture. She re-did the entire inside, down to the logs, which her efforts made a crucial part of the finished look.

Writer Donna Pizzi reveals Green's strategy in ways that will benefit all who anticipate including furniture in their log home. That doesn't mean slavishly following this home's fashion. The joy of owning a log home is expressing your personal tastes. Achieving that goal requires confidence, and that begins with knowing all your options.

In addition, Style columnist Joyce Standridge explains the traits of the most popular log-home decor themes. She makes clear that although logs might not change, they can enhance many different looks.

These differences result from logs' versatility. Logs have character that should never be denied. They impose themselves on every decor, but in the positive sense of establishing a bold tableau to build on. Take every advantage of the opportunity they offer, and yours will be a home whose look will delight you and dazzle others.

Roland

ROLAND SWEET

Editor-in-Chief

## ASK THE EDITOR

***Must all a log home's inside walls be log?***

Partition walls built of logs add unmistakable drama to a home. They also add substantial cost.

Perimeter walls will be log, of course, but many log homes have stud-framed interior walls. Non-log walls modify the logs, allow decor flexibility and also ease installation of electrical, plumbing and ductwork.

Even in full-log homes, usually only the main level is log. A common arrangement has a load-bearing, log partition wall bisecting the house. A half-story is over one half; the other half is open, forming the popular cathedral ceiling. The log partition combines with the log perimeter to outline the open great room, which includes living, dining and kitchen functions. The other side of the log partition forms the walls of one or more bedrooms. Any further division of space on the main level and all of it on the upper and lower levels can be conventional materials.

Whether you choose all log partition walls, some log or none will determine your home's inside look. And that choice is totally up to you.

***Got a question you need answered? Ask away!***



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	AVERAGE VOCs		147 g/L
Perma-Chink	LifelineUltra-7 <sup>1</sup>	1	100 g/L
	Lifeline Advance	1-2	250 g/L
	Lifeline Ultra-2	2	250 g/L
	Lifeline Interior	2	100 g/L
	AVERAGE VOCs		175 g/L
Sikkens	Cetol 1 <sup>2</sup>	1	550 g/L
	Cetol 23 Plus <sup>2</sup>	2	<490 g/L
	Cetol Log Decor	2	296 g/L
	Cetol Maintenance	1	<450 g/L
	AVERAGE VOCs		445 g/L
Sashco	Transformation	2	<250 g/L
	Symphony Interior Clear	2	<250 g/L
	Capture Log Stain	2	<250 g/L
	AVERAGE VOCs		<250 g/L
Sansin	Classic <sup>3</sup>	2	60 g/L
	Classic Clear UV <sup>3</sup>	1	60 g/L
	Purity Interior Clear	2-3	33 g/L
	AVERAGE VOCs		51 g/L

<sup>1</sup> Manufacturer suggests an additional coat of Lifeline Advance. <sup>2</sup> Cetol 1/Cetol 23 Plus System.

<sup>3</sup> Sansin Classic and Clear UV is a 3 coat system.

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# *Sitting Pretty*

Log-home living is as much about the living as it is the logs. A lot of that living occurs outside the home. Porches and decks — integral ingredients of log homes — transport log-home living into the outdoors. Often, it's to gaze at the view, whether mighty or modest, but sometimes it's just to sit and feel overwhelming contentment.





**Pastoral Appreciation.** A log-home porch needn't be elaborate or the view awe-inspiring to enrich the log-home experience. A farmland setting can be as calming or inspiring as any. The key is that when you site the home, you face it in the right direction to maximize the view.









JK Lawrence photos

**Three Chairs for the Scenery.** The purpose of porches and decks is to sit, not stand or walk around. Relax. That means having the right chairs and in the right position to make the most of the near and distant views. Classic perches are wicker, typically cushioned (opposite), and the venerable Adirondack chairs (shown in various forms at left and below). Though wicker is more stylish, slat-back Adirondacks also feature wide arm rests, which are ideal resting places for drinks, books and binoculars, all essential to maximizing relaxation.











The image shows a close-up view of a rustic wooden porch. In the foreground, a wooden bench with a striped cushion is visible. The porch has a railing made of thick, curved logs. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a body of water. The text is overlaid on a dark rectangular area in the upper right corner.

### **For More Than Just Sitting.**

Wide porches offer plenty of shade that invite outdoor living. In essence, they become an additional room. This extra space is especially welcome for small homes and cabins to avoid overdoing interior coziness. The right furniture can transform a porch into an alfresco dining room. Hand-fashioned railings and posts amplify the rustic mood established by the wall logs and ease the transition from the house to its natural surroundings.



**Purple Mountains Majesty.** The pinnacle for some log-home owners is not just enjoying a spectacular view of distant peaks, but also living atop one. Such a lofty experience can be exhilarating, but it's often also a humbling one in the face of such natural splendor.







FAVORITE  
*Spaces*  
decks & porches



James Ray Spahn photo

**Face Time.**

Decks have one big advantage over porches: sunshine. That makes them especially inviting for mornings and evenings. Decks also promote conviviality. With nature as their backdrop, decks instill appreciation of simplicity, which requires only essential furnishings. A table-and-chair grouping is more than adequate for casual or intimate conversations.



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## Inside Outside.

In cooler climes, enthusiasm for porches is short lived but can be overcome by enclosing them. This is not a contradiction. Screened-in porches are an indoor-outdoor compromise, but dedicated sun porches provide year-round comfort and plenty of natural light. Protected from the weather, they're ideal places to furnish in stylish but casual comfort.



JK Lawrence photo

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# *New Look for Old Logs*

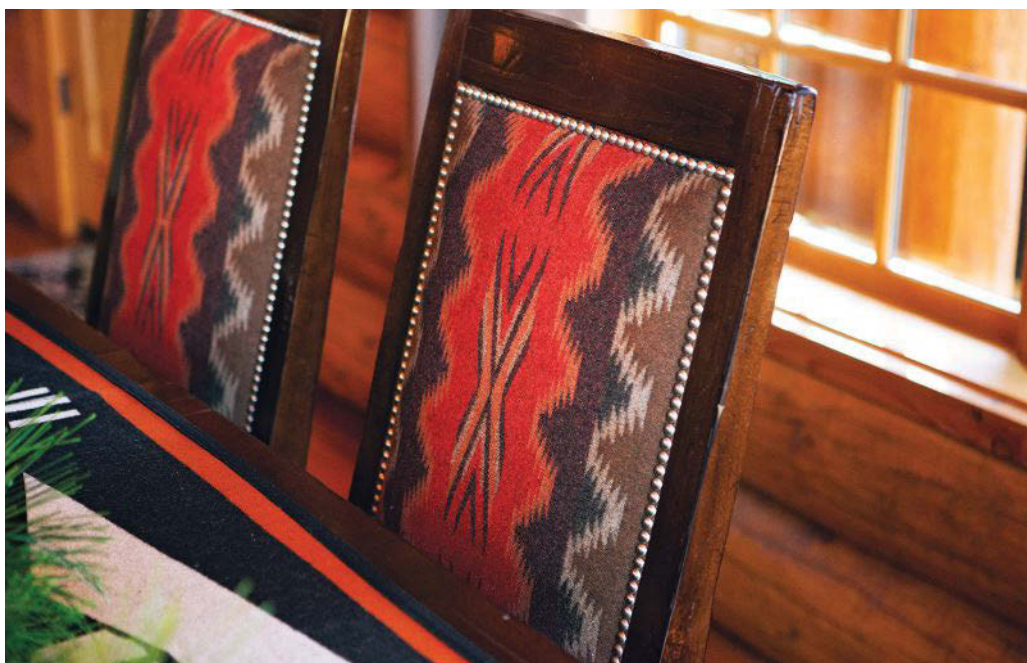
A facelift transforms a  
Mount Hood home into an  
inviting ski lodge.

*story* **DONNA PIZZI**

*photos by* **BLACKSTONEEDGE.COM**

Without changing the footprint of this Oregon home, interior designer Eveyln Green improved its curb appeal by embellishing the entry columns with faux-stone footings that reiterate the central fireplace stone and basement facing.





**ABOVE LEFT:** A custom-made Lorts dining table and chairs backed with Pendleton Woolen Mills fabric play off wool draperies on wrought-iron arrow hardware.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Comfy leather sofa and chairs pair with an oversized coffee table to provide loads of lounging room before a roaring fire.

**LEFT:** A detail of the dining room chairs reveals the woolen fabric trimmed out with silver nail heads.





**A**t first glance, these Vancouver, Washington, homeowners believed that the fully furnished log home they purchased from its previous owners in Government Camp, Oregon, would be perfect for their needs. It was clear from the beginning, however, that the home's cottage-style furnishings, lack of window treatments and general ambiance simply did not mesh with the family's Northwest lifestyle, which includes a love of the outdoors, and entertaining family and friends.

They turned to a familiar face for help. Having worked on three of the

family's homes that preceded this one, interior designer Evelyn Green, who also acted as project manager, was well acquainted with the couple's likes, dislikes and comfort zone and eager to undertake this new challenge. "The husband and wife had always dreamed of owning a log home," she explains. "They purchased this Government Camp log house specifically for skiing, because of its proximity to the slopes."

One of the criteria Green worked with, once the project was turned over to her, was to provide comfortable sleeping and lounging quarters for family and friends. The husband also asked that

the bathrooms be completely remodeled with jetted tubs so guests could relax in comfort after a day of skiing.

The kitchen was also gutted, upgraded, and outfitted with dishware, glasses and silverware from Pendleton Woolen Mills. "Because logs are not plumb," Green says, "the cabinets are built off-site and then installed on a pre-existing framed wall. You can't simply nail your cabinets to the logs and hope they line up."

To make better use of an immense, unused expanse of floor space in the main living area, Green designed a large peninsula topped with Vulcan ▶







Walnut-stained alder cabinets trimmed with Vulcan Gold granite countertops and a new peninsula add greater usability and visual panache to the kitchen and an unused area of the great room.







Gold granite that unites the kitchen and formal dining area, while providing both a casual place to dine and more storage beneath. A pony wall added to the sink cabinets also gave her a place to attach the electrical, while simultaneously hiding the sink counter from view. The wall is crowned with Vulcan Gold granite as well, thus marrying it to both countertops and peninsula for better visual flow.

To improve the poor task lighting in the great room, Green devised low-voltage cable lighting that spans the width of the great room near the kitchen and peninsula areas. Dropped

pendants hang from the cable over the peninsula. Transformer boxes that run the cable lights are tucked atop the log beams, out of sight. Under-cabinet LED lighting provides additional task lighting. "Because of the vaulted ceilings, the original spotlights hanging from the wall just weren't sufficient for task areas," Green says.

Once the original furnishings were jettisoned, Green's driving force was to create the flavor of the Pacific Northwest. Enrobing the rich Douglas fir logs with Pendleton woolen product became a paramount element in her design. The lush fabrics appear every-

where, from rich draperies to striking bedspreads, plush chair backs, graphic blankets tossed across a card table and a game room sectional, as well as cozy woolen pillows all around. "After all," says Green, "we are located in the home of the Pendleton Woolen Mills, a six-generation, family-run Oregon company, dating from 1909, whose first consumers were members of the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla Indian tribes." Many of the original blanket designs were taken from Native American mythology and design preferences gleaned from interviews done with the local clientele and later with





**LEFT:** Overstuffed red leather sofas and chair brighten up the loft sitting area, which features canoe lamps, Pendleton blankets and pillows.

**BELOW:** One of the few original touches that remain: a copper game room sink, newly paired with Vulcan Gold granite and glass backsplash.



## Tips for Successful Makeovers

Interior designer Evelyn Green shares a few ideas for remodeling a log home.

**1 GO PRO.** Start by engaging professionals to undertake whatever remodeling you plan to do. “Remodeling log homes is not a DIY situation,” says Green.

**2 PROJECT MANAGE.** The key to any project is finding a pro who understands your needs, lifestyle and personality, in order to expand and enhance your ideas.

**3 FRAME IT UP.** Rather than rely on log floors and walls to be plumb, frame kitchen and baths within the box for better alignment and function of new cabinetry and doors, tile, flooring and tubs.

**4 KNOW YOUR WOOD.** Inform your design by understanding the properties of all woods: their hardness, performance and ability to take stain. Green chose alder, known as the chameleon wood, for the cabinetry. “It’s considered a hard wood, yet is softer than some other hard woods, has a soft grain and takes any stain,” she points out.

**5 LET THERE BE LIGHT.** Insufficient task lighting is the bane of log-home living, given the vaulted ceilings and logs’ tendency to soak up light. Low-voltage cable lighting with dropped pendants over the island solved the problem in this home’s formerly under-lit great room. LED under-cabinet lighting burns cool.

**6 WORK ELECTRICAL MAGIC.** A pro will know electrical codes. A designer can help create designs that are at once economical and keep necessary electrical out of view.

tribes from the Southwest.

An intense search for portable lighting produced lamps that evoked a Northwest lodge feel that enhance the overall log home decor. “Lamps are always an important part of your accessories and decor,” says Green, who believes that if they are properly chosen, lamps can become one of the home’s key focal pieces. “It never serves a client well to make a choice of portable lighting based simply on, ‘Will it do the job?’ or, ‘How much does it cost?’ We pushed the envelope where lighting is concerned in this home and created some incredible things.”

One of the finest examples is the petrified wood lamp with copper shade found on the credenza near the card table in the great room — a tribute to the plethora of talented artisans living in the Portland area. “If you can just dream up something wonderful in design, you can find the people in Portland to do it,” she says.

Learning to work around a client’s likes and dislikes requires an interior designer with an agile, inventive mind. One of the requirements for this log home was to provide king-sized beds in every bedroom. “You have to have a minimum of 12 feet to accommodate a ▶





1

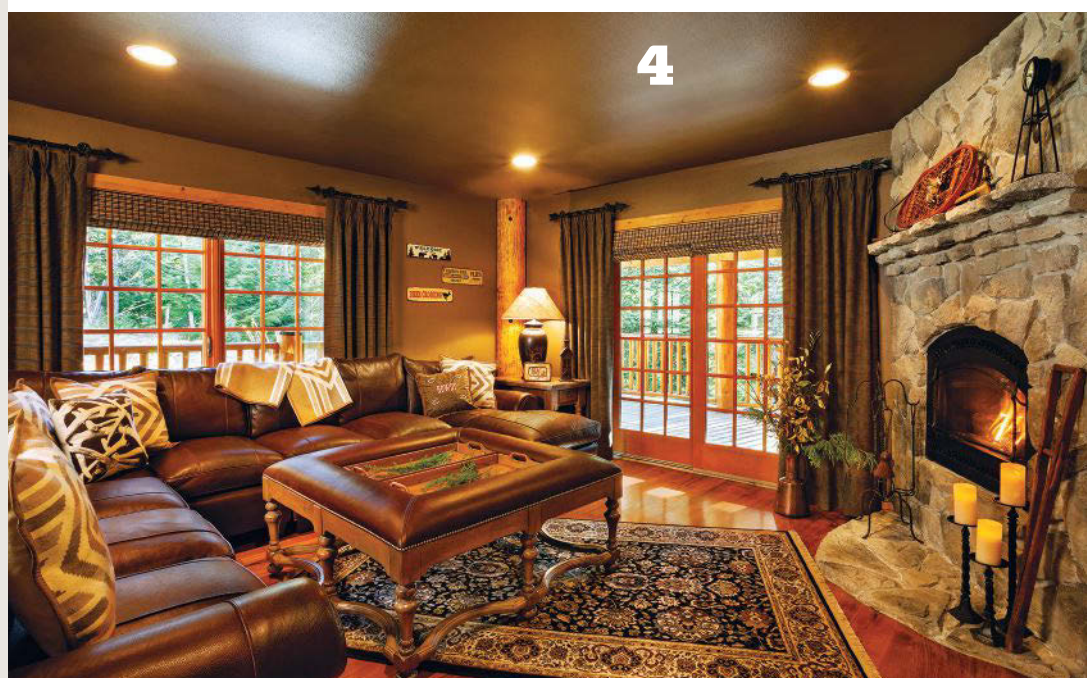
The two upper-level bedrooms share a bath and a sitting area, with a commanding view of the great room below, as shown on page 33.



2



3

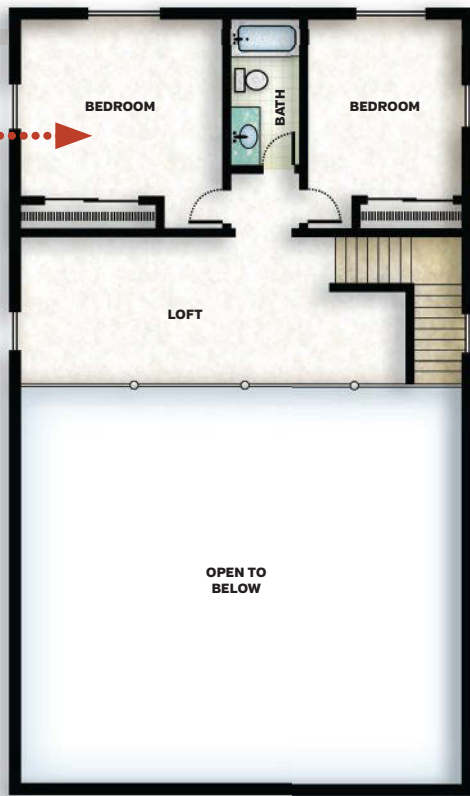


4

The lower-level game room features a custom leather sectional sofa and an oversized cocktail table rimmed in leather features with insert drink trays. Antique crutches and snowshoes grace the hearth.

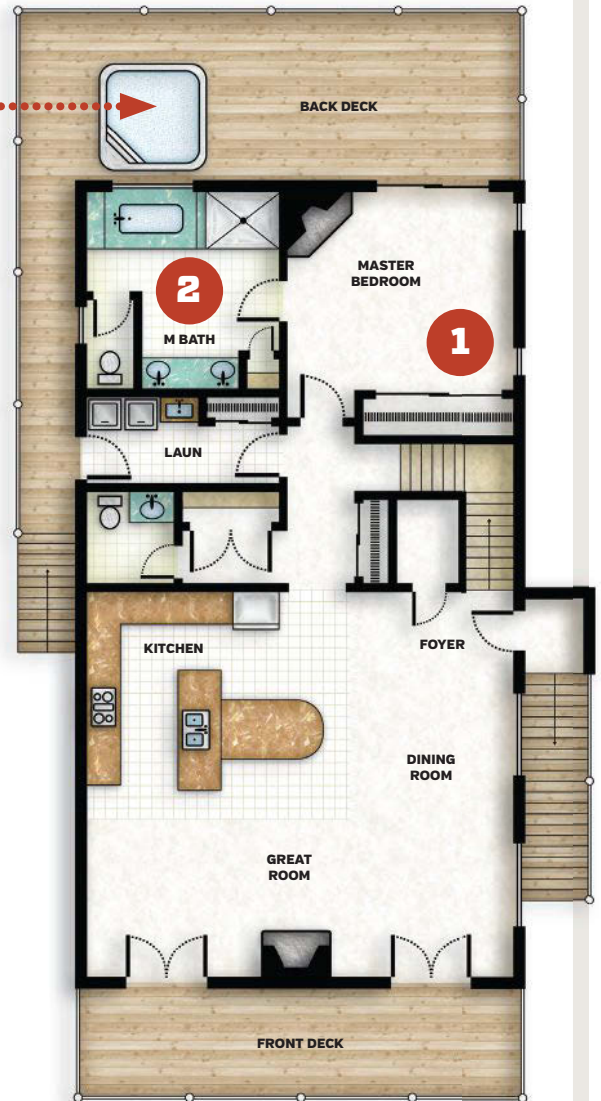


# *floor plan*

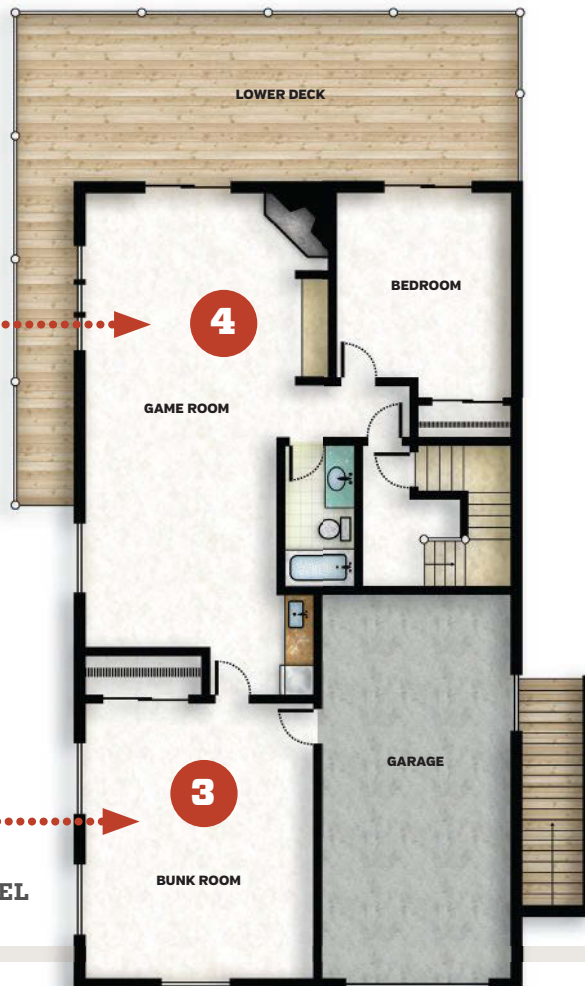


UPPER LEVEL

As befits a ski lodge, the back deck provides glorious views of the surrounding mountains and a roomy hot tub, with access from the main-level master bedroom.



MAIN LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL

Crossed antique skis and poles at the foot of the bunk beds draw the eye to drapery hardware crafted from vintage children's skis.

## HOME DETAILS

Square Footage: 5,000

Interior Designer & Project Manager:

Green with Envy Interiors  
(503-720-6321,  
[greenwithenvyinteriors.net](http://greenwithenvyinteriors.net))









**A bird's-eye view from the loft provides a sense of how the great room is organized spatially, revealing cozy groupings within the overall open layout.**

king-size bed and nightstands,” Green explains. “As a rule, secondary bedrooms are not constructed to house such a large bed. The next challenge is to find a bedside table that will work in a small space.”

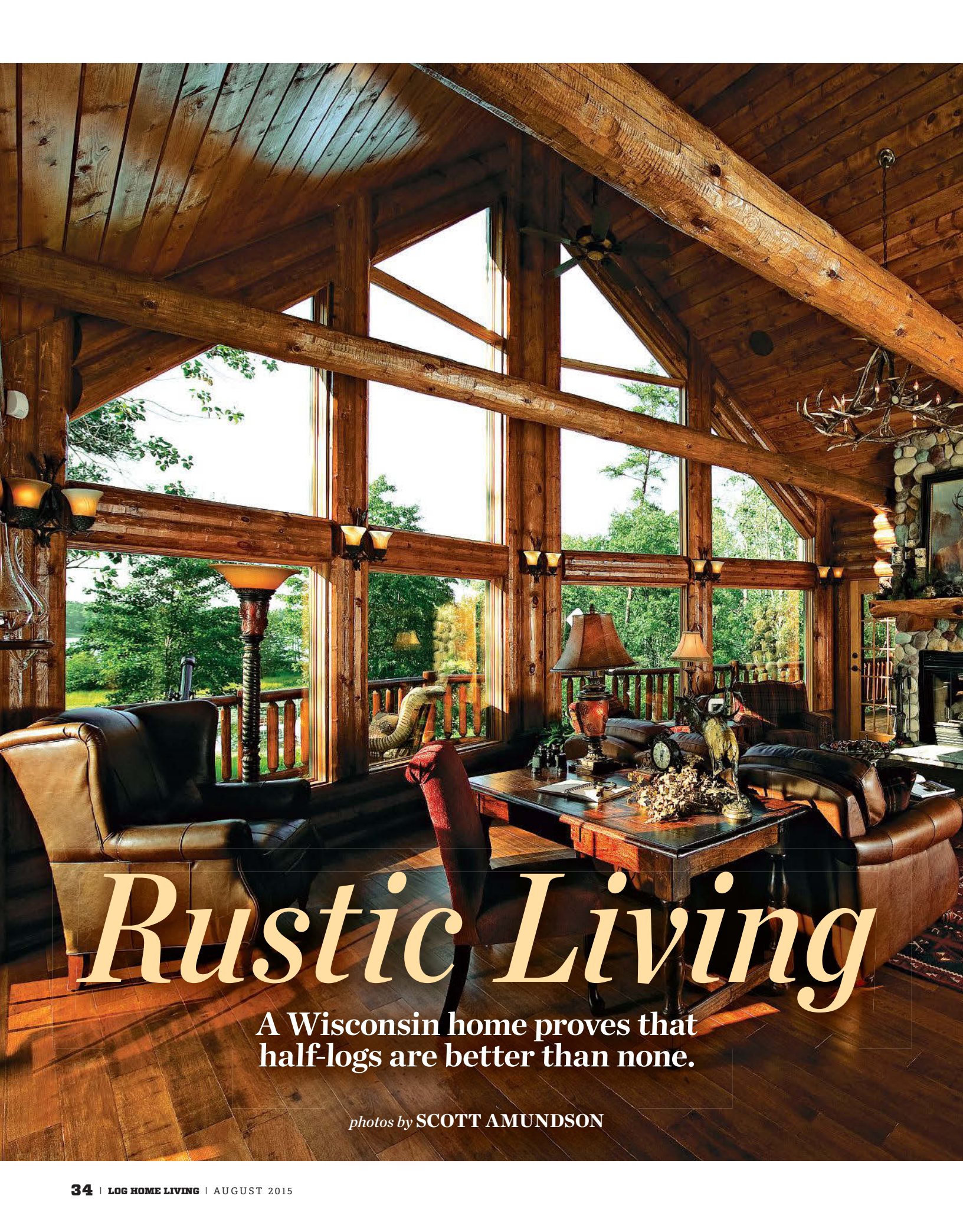
In bedrooms without space to fit a chair, the homeowner requested that a bench be placed at the foot of each bed so guests can sit comfortably when they put on or take off their shoes. Making each one unique was a task Green enjoyed.

Finally, having introduced Roborn mirror cabinets into one of the family’s previous homes, the owner insisted they appear in every subsequent bathroom because of their amazing number of conveniences: plenty of storage, mounted lights, lit interiors, interior electrical sockets and night lights that burn blue. Other possibilities are a space for a television or even refrigeration meant to keep makeup fresh.

Rugged, Northwest-style furnishings include a Lorts dining table with custom Pendleton wool-backed chairs, red leather easy chairs in the upstairs loft, and antique accessories ranging from animal horns, children’s skis used as curtain rods in the children’s bunk room windows and a vintage six-shooter and holster. “One of the most challenging searches for details,” Green recalls, “was the time spent seeking handcrafted Northwestern-styled hardware to make the draperies pop. I searched like the dickens.”

Establishing the trust necessary to launch such a project indicates just how much faith this family has in Green’s work. “That faith,” she says, “enabled me to freely express their desires and dreams.” **L**






# *Rustic Living*

A Wisconsin home proves that  
half-logs are better than none.

photos by SCOTT AMUNDSON





Large windows in the prow of the open great room add plenty of natural light to balance the dark stain of the eastern white pine half-logs.

**RIGHT:** To bolster the lodge look, a loft support post is an actual tree trunk with a flared base. Indian-print cushions and upholstery add informality and comfort in the great room.



Most people who choose half-log homes do so to modify the log look, usually with drywall. Not so for the owners of this home, located on 6.2 acres with 250 feet of lake frontage in northwestern Wisconsin. They wanted wood from floor to ceiling and in between. A support post for the loft, for instance, is a hand-peeled tree trunk, complete with flared base. Another example is the handcrafted-log frame around the passageway between the living room and the dining and kitchen areas. There's also log trim around the

windows and round logs for the deck.

Half-log construction involves building a home conventionally and then splitting full logs to affix to the inside and outside of the framed, insulated walls. But this home has a full-log look, using dark-stained eastern white pine logs from Golden Eagle Log Homes to establish the rustic mood of a long-ago North Woods lodge. "That was the look we wanted to create," the owner explains. "We selected a darker stain, which we find gives the logs a honey glow when they reflect the radiance of a blazing fire."

Besides wood, the home relies on









**LEFT:** Maple cabinets in the kitchen sport a cherry finish that coordinates with the white pine half-logs. The efficiently designed space features full-length laminate countertops. The eat-at island is faced with colorful simulated river rock.

**TOP:** The tongue-and-groove pine on the interior walls and ceiling is filled with knotholes, giving a more authentic 1920s lodge look to the master bedroom. The four-poster bed draws attention to the round half-log perimeter walls. Coordinating duvet cover, dust ruffle and window treatments feature an oak leaf pattern. The bust of Don Quixote reminds the homeowner that the literary character “was a dreamer, like I am.”

**ABOVE:** A handcrafted-log frame for the passageway from the living room to the dining and kitchen areas enriches the home’s rustic charm. The hand-scraped engineered hardwood flooring adds character but is easy to care for – a requirement for this second home.



## HOME DETAILS

**Square Footage:** 3,824

**Log Provider:** Golden Eagle Log Homes (866-855-6948, goldeneagleloghomes.com)

**Designer:** Golden Eagle Log Homes and the homeowners

**Builder:** Country View Log Homes (715-520-6285, email: smtk@centurytel.net)

**Landscaping:** R&R Landscapes (715-468-4074) and Tarras Design (715-865-6066, email: smtarras@tarrasdesign.com)



simulated river rock for the fireplace and other interior accents, plus as facing for the walkout basement. Glass is another prominent element. Oversized windows create a great-room prow that enjoys a view of the lake.


The home is a modified version of Golden Eagle's Prow V model, which comprises 1,512 square feet on the main level

and a 488-square-foot loft. It's built over a basement, which adds another 1,824 square feet of living space for a family room, two bedrooms and two bathrooms for guests.

The couple put off building their home for many years but are glad they finally took the plunge. "The beauty and warmth of a log home," the owner says, "cannot be duplicated by anything else." **L**

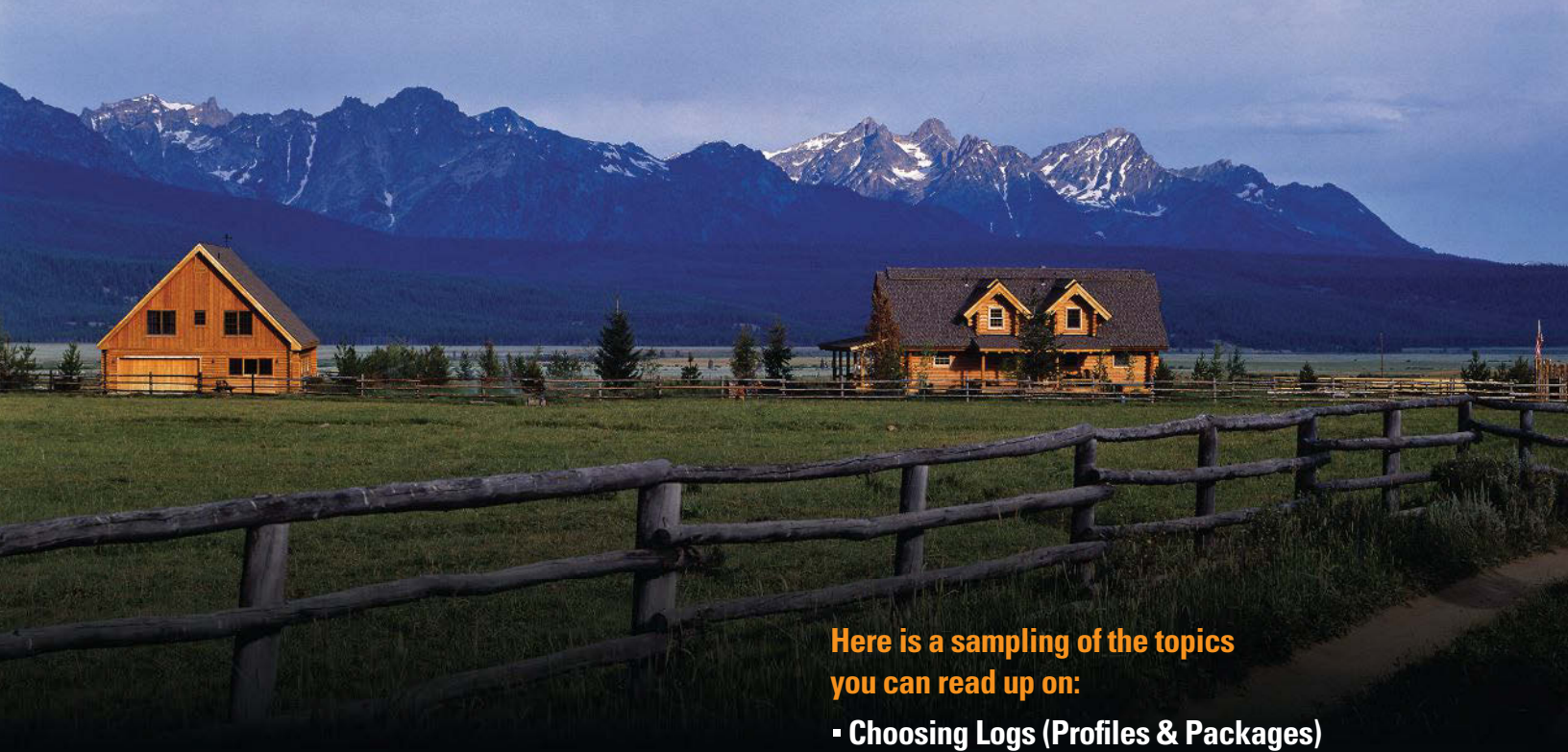




A two-story log cabin is shown at dusk. The house features a prominent stone chimney on the left and large, multi-paned windows that glow with warm interior light. A wide wooden deck with a log railing runs along the second floor. The ground floor has stone walls and large glass doors. The house is surrounded by trees and a grassy lawn with a stone path leading to the entrance.

The rear of the home mixes stonework and white pine half-logs with oversized prow windows that enjoy a view of the lake. The full-length cedar deck adds to the home's living space and is a popular summer dining spot.





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- Choosing Your Producer
- Energy Efficiency for Today's Log Home
- How Will Your Home Look and Live?
- Keep Your Eyes on the Prize
- Square Footage 101
- Staining Options for Your Log Home
- Your Log Home: Custom Design or Model Plan?

**Or sit back, relax and watch a few videos and webinars:**

- Kitchen Confidential: Expert Tips for Bringing Your Dream Kitchen to Life
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- Log Home Living: Cost Effective Design
- Developing Your Dream Home Budget
- Start Planning Your Dream Home Today

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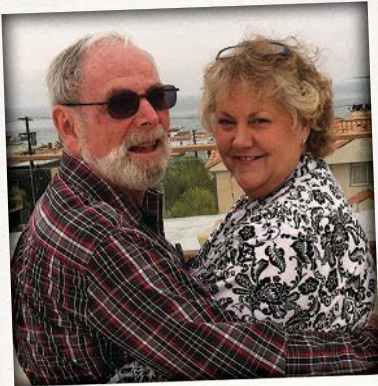
Rocky Mountain Log Homes photo





# FLOOR PLANS

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL SOLUTIONS.**



*Saul and Sue*

**42**

## **GREAT ESCAPE**

The couple wants to build family memories, but away from busy Washington, D.C. They settled on the Shenandoah Valley.

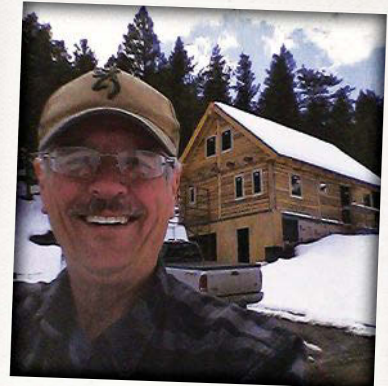


*Susan and Dorian*

**44**

## **LAKESIDE LIVING**

Forested land with a view of Lake Tahoe calls for a special home where the couple can welcome family and friends.



*Bob*

**46**

## **DIY DREAM**

Bob Kershaw hopes for a small home that he could build himself in Colorado to be near his grandchildren.

**PLUS: A 12-page gallery of popular floor plans**



# Close, but Far Away

**W**ith a daughter in middle school, Sue and Saul knew they wanted to seize the chance to make precious memories as a family. A quiet place close to the bustling metropolitan Washington, D.C., area would help them do just that. They found land near the Shenandoah River in Virginia and snapped it up the day it went on the market.

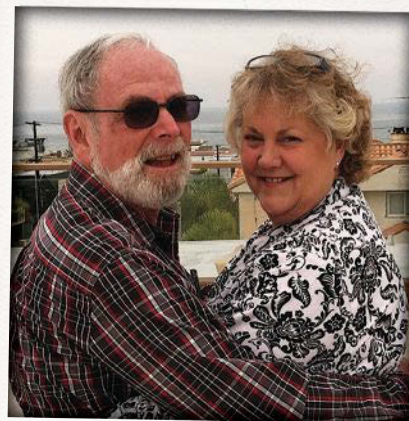
**Why a log home:** Saul has always dreamed of a log home, and the couple's wooded ridge-top setting is the perfect spot for one.

**Most important features:** As native Californians, Sue and Saul appreciate contemporary design and wanted a home that would be easy to care for and open to hosting crowds of family and friends.

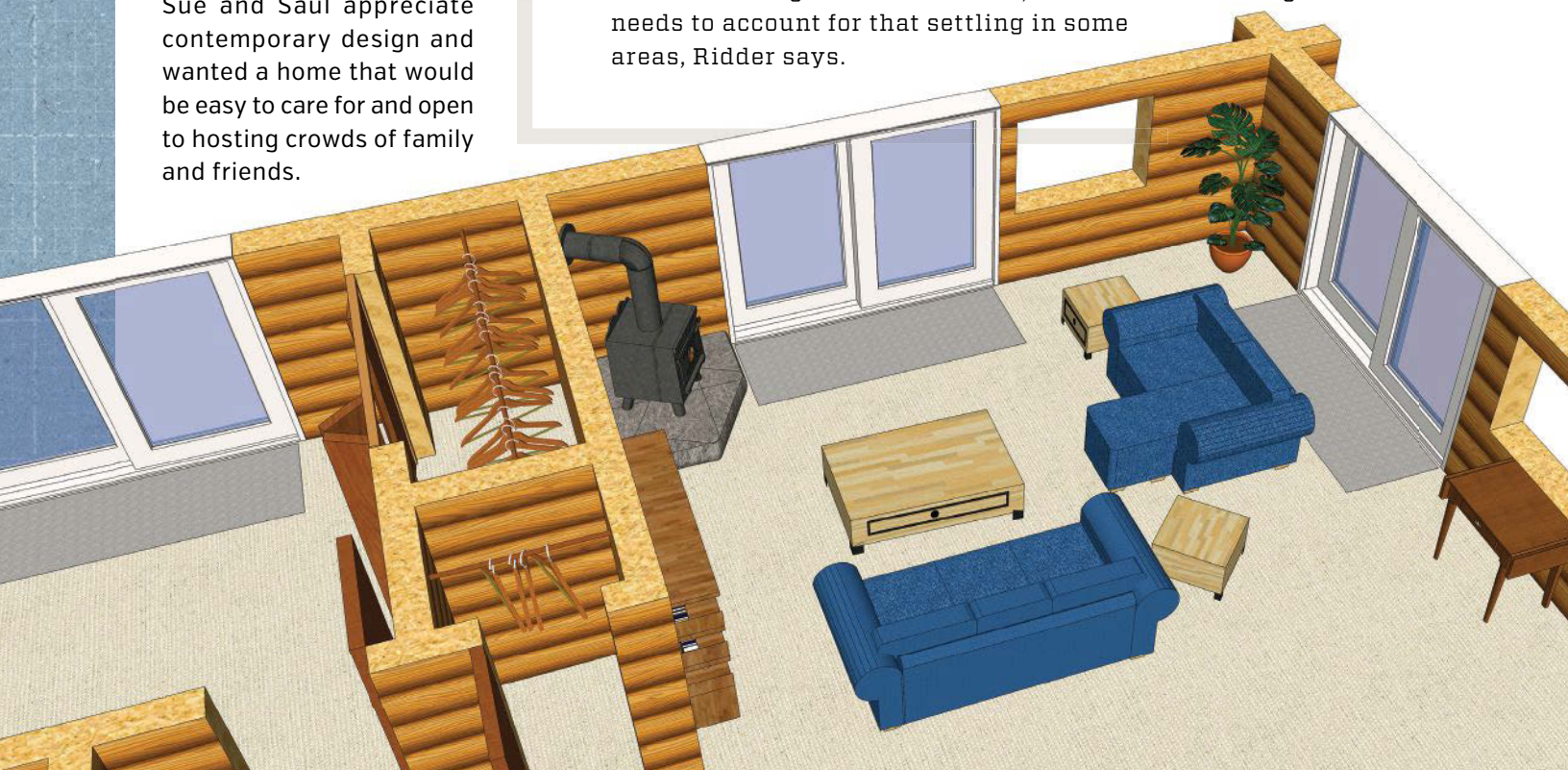
## The Inside Scoop

Scott Ridder and the drafting team at Appalachian Log Structures worked with the couple to adapt the design to log construction. If you've fallen in love with a plan for a conventional home, it most likely can be built with logs, Ridder says, but consider these factors:

- **THE ROOF.** Most conventional homes use interior, load-bearing partition walls to help support the roof. If you are hoping for the open, vaulted spaces generally associated with log homes, your designer may need to add supporting posts.
- **THE BUDGET.** Log walls and conventionally framed walls don't vary greatly in cost of construction, but you'll add to your bottom line by specifying open ceilings with heavy timbers, Ridder explains.
- **MAINTENANCE.** Log homes are often designed with deep roof overhangs to protect the wall logs from weather. If the conventional home plan doesn't have overhangs, your logs could require more maintenance.
- **SETTLING.** Logs settle over time, and the home's design needs to account for that settling in some areas, Ridder says.



*Saul and Sue*

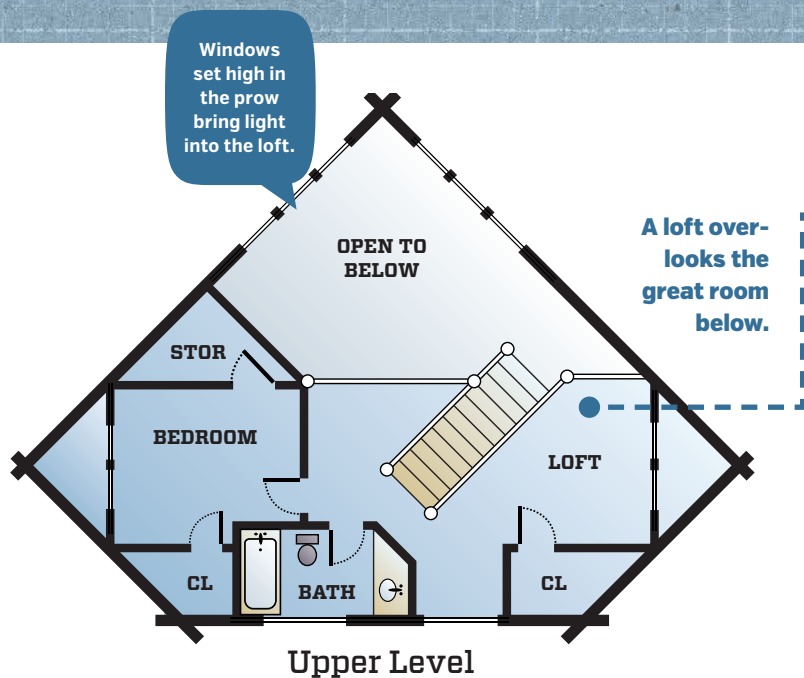




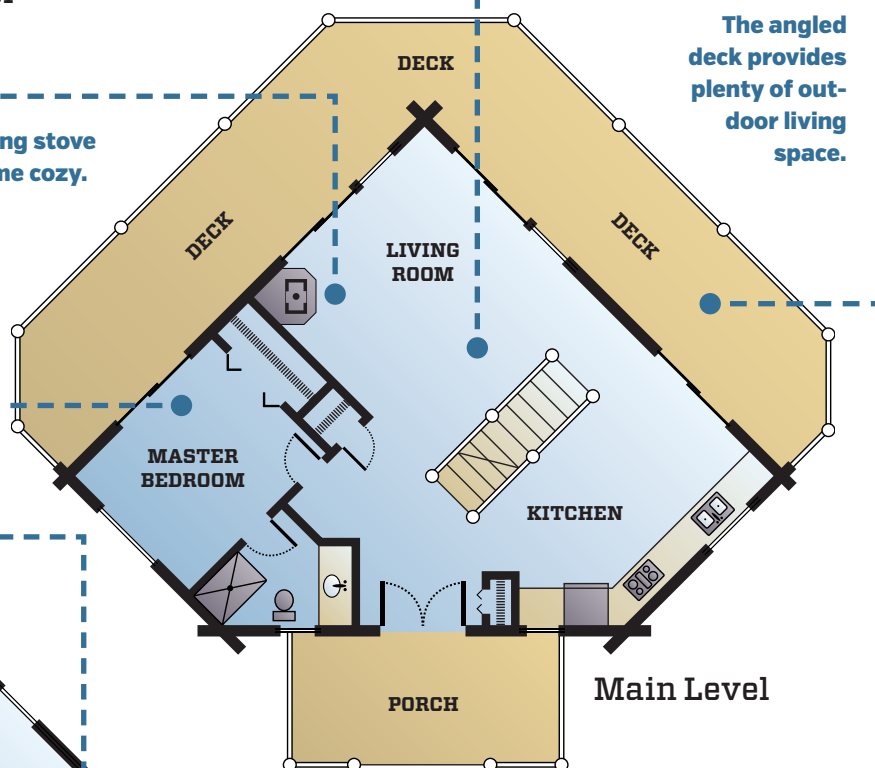
## PLAN SPECS

**Square Footage:** 1,100  
(not including finished basement)

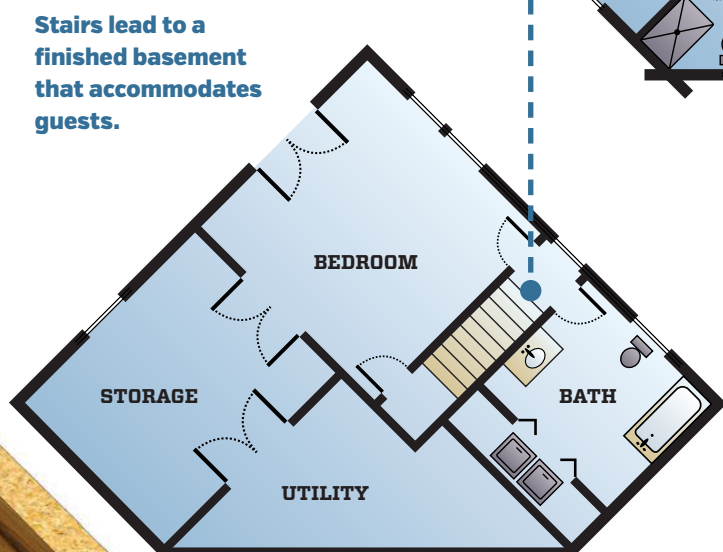
**Bedrooms:** 2 **Baths:** 2



Upper Level



Main Level



Lower Level

## The Lowdown

The couple purchased a stock plan created by R.C.M Cad Design Drafting in British Columbia and took it to local log-home builder Scott Ridder at Dogwood Mountain Log Homes. The design's distinctive angles and wing-like roof lines remind Sue of a bird and fit perfectly on the lot she describes as having a "soaring view" of the tree tops and the river gorge.



# The Perfect Fit for a Narrow Lot

A site overlooking forested public land attracted Dorian and Susan to the west shore of Lake Tahoe. The land is close to the lake, skiing and mountain bike trails, making it a perfect spot for the couple to bring people together. "We see this home as an anchor for our family and friends," Dorian says.

**Why a log home:** "We've always loved log homes in the mountains, and we have often vacationed in log cabins and lodges," Dorian explains. He and Susan appreciate the character and natural beauty of wood. "It's hard to put into words the pleasure that we get from walking into a log home."

**Most important features:**

For their mountain getaway, the couple's "must have" list included a great room with a forest view, a master suite, bedrooms for their son and daughter, a bunk-room for four grandchildren and an office. The family loves to cook, so the design needed to include space to eat, drink and socialize.

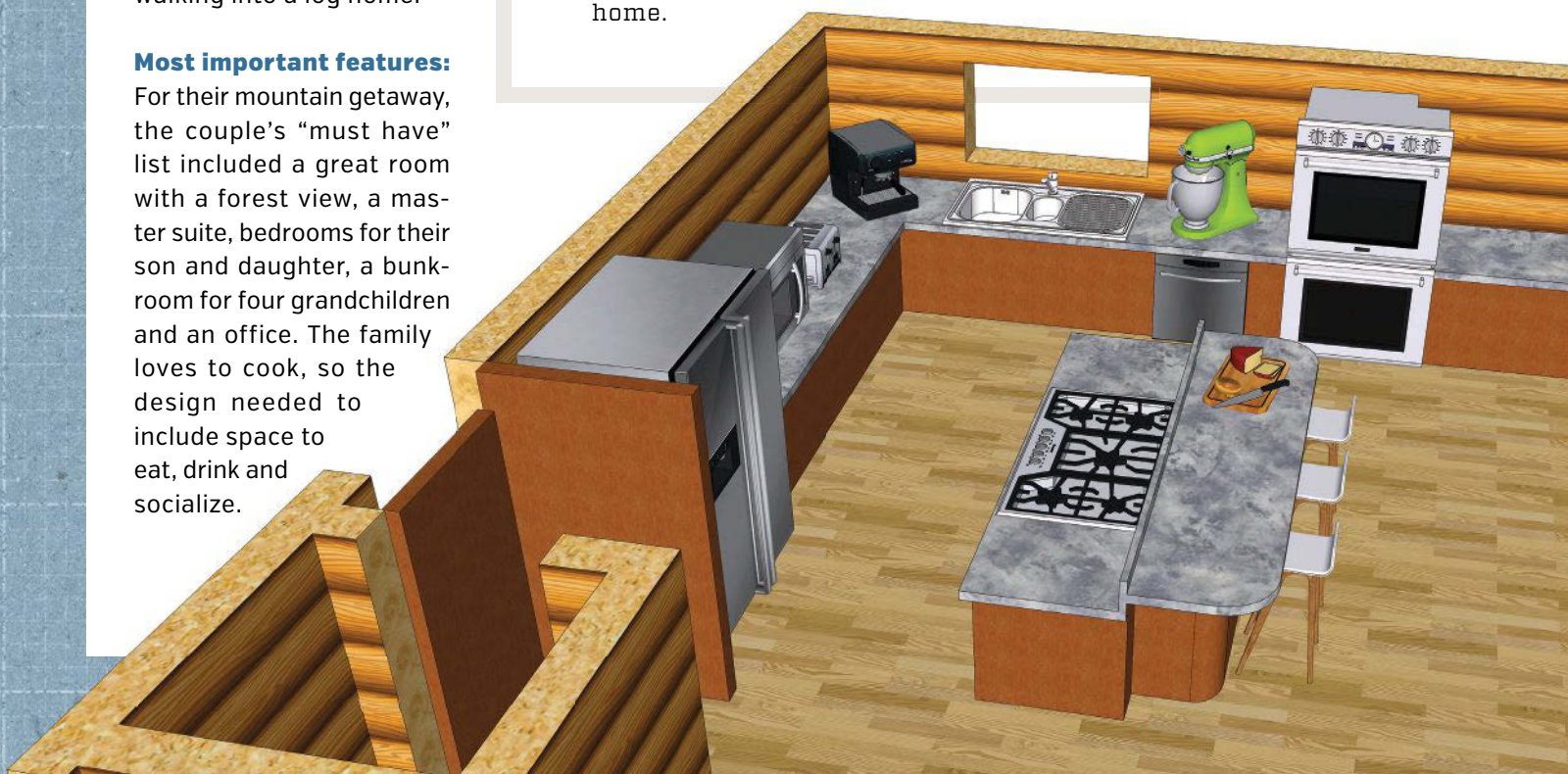
## The Inside Scoop

Building in the mountains of California calls for a home that can shoulder heavy snow loads and meet codes for earthquake protection. If you're designing a home in snow country, consider these factors:

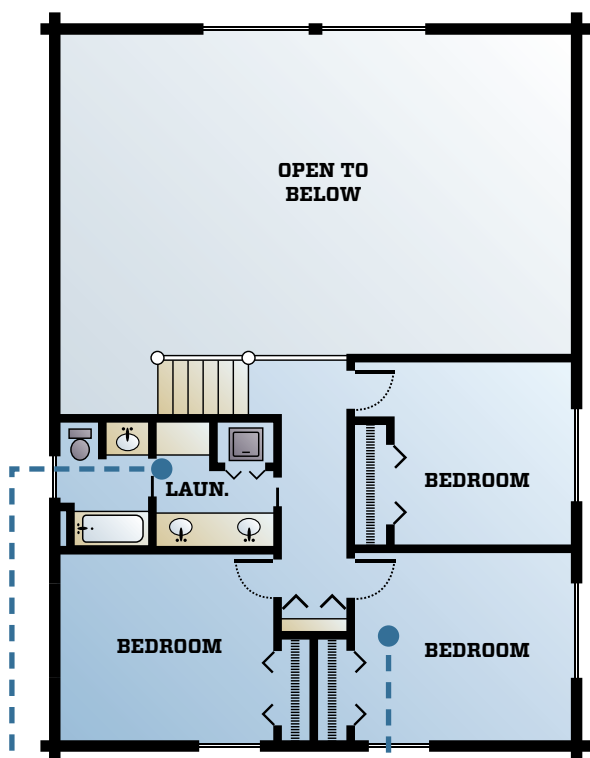
- **ROOF STRUCTURE.** Working with a designer without having a set budget wastes time. "Our objective is to build something they can afford and enjoy," Mundy says about his company's clients. Be honest with your designer about what you will spend.
- **LOG PROTECTION.** If a plan is too large overall, Mundy suggests shrinking it down proportionally to maintain your preferred overall exterior look. If you like a home with two symmetrical wings off a central great room, for example, you should size all of the spaces down, instead of just lopping off one wing to save on space.
- **ENTRYWAYS.** You'll hear the cost of a home estimated on a per-square-foot basis. Keep in mind that some items (such as the cost of appliances and fireplace you've selected) remain fixed, no matter what size home you design. Cutting your home's size in half won't cut costs in half, but it would decrease the total price of the home.



*Susan and Dorian*



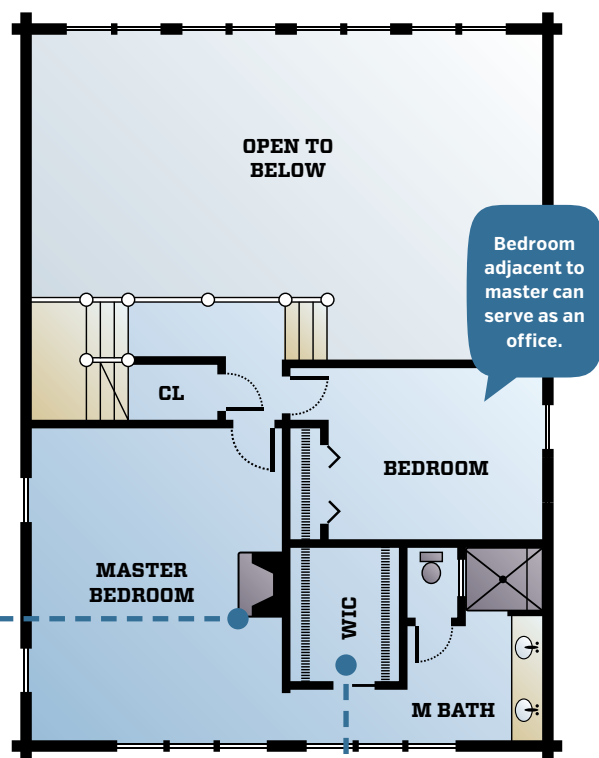




Second Upper Level

Laundry is located on the guest room level, just one flight up from the master bedroom.

A bunkroom accommodates grandchildren.



First Upper Level

A fireplace adds charm to the master bedroom.

Master bath features a large walk-in closet.

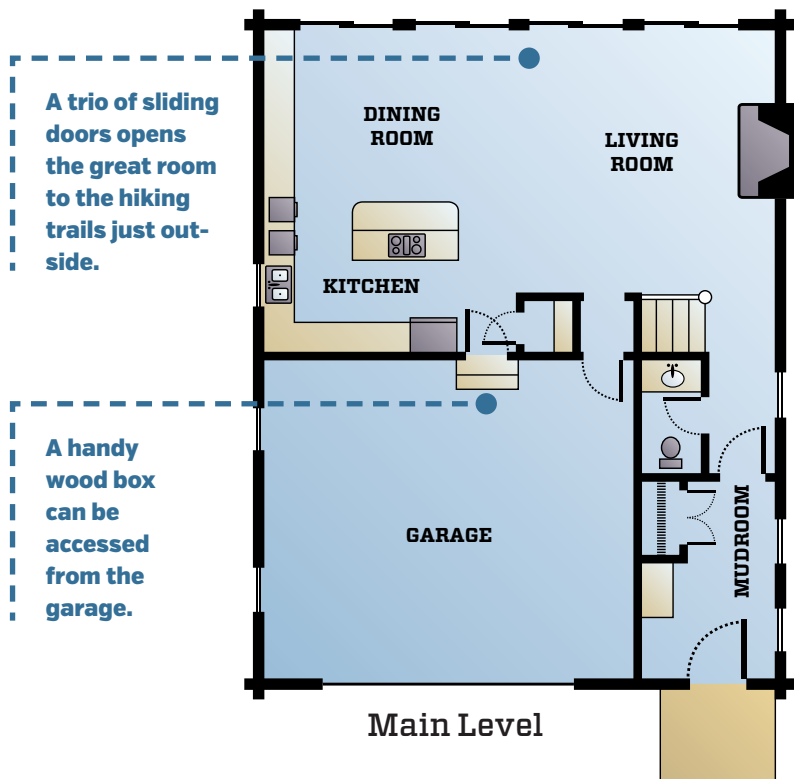
Bedroom adjacent to master can serve as an office.

## PLAN SPECS

**Square Footage:** 2,550  
**Bedrooms:** 5 **Baths:** 2.5

## The Lowdown

Lynda Tompkins at Timberhaven Log Homes in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, describes the three-level home that fulfills the couple's wish list. A built-in garage and an open living area occupy the home's first floor. The master suite sits above it, looking down over the great room. Three guest rooms are located on the third floor. The plan is open for entertaining, and the great room looks out over the woods.



A trio of sliding doors opens the great room to the hiking trails just outside.

A handy wood box can be accessed from the garage.



# Building Off the Grid

**W**ith a few of his grandchildren close by, Bob Kershaw was looking for a place to build a log cabin near Golden, Colorado, to get away and to challenge his building prowess. He found a little over an acre of former mining land nestled up against a mountainside and knew it would be perfect.

**Why a log home:** Bob has always been interested in building a log home for himself. After retiring, the opportunity presented itself. "I decided to fulfill a dream," Bob says.

**Most important features:** Because he planned to do much of the construction himself, Bob wanted a small home, but one that could be enjoyed by family and friends. His rural location calls for the home to be off the grid, with no access to public utilities. The area of his property that was flat enough to build on was not large.

## PLAN SPECS

**Square Footage:**

1,100

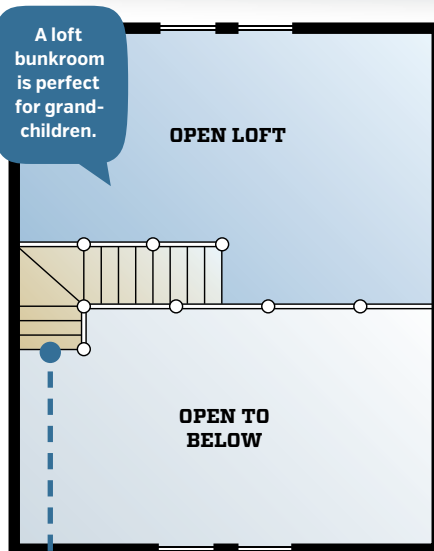
**Bedrooms:** 1 **Baths:** 1

## The Lowdown

With his experience in remote construction, Ken Flowers of Jeremiah Johnson Log Homes in Dumont, Colorado, helped design a small home that would allow Bob to realize his dream of building his own place. Excavation on the site revealed that a garage could be placed under the home's main floor, saving Bob from building a separate garage. Outdoor spaces help expand the living area; a patio on the sunny western side of the home will offer an outdoor fireplace.



*Bob*

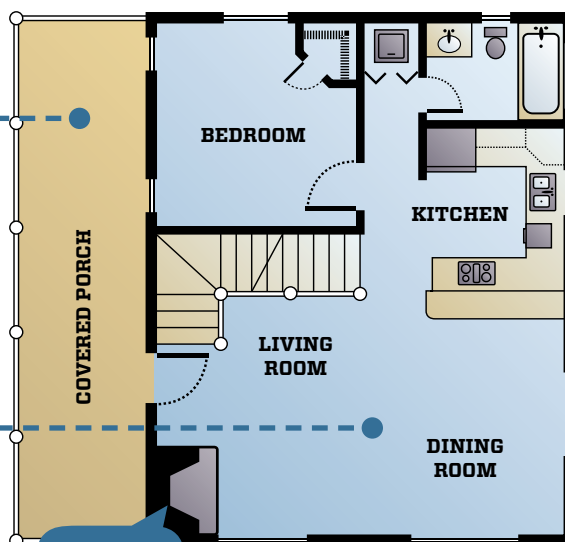


Upper Level

Log stairs lead to the loft.

A porch stretches across one side of the cabin.

An open floor plan makes the small home feel larger.



A wood-burning stove helps heat the home.

Main Level



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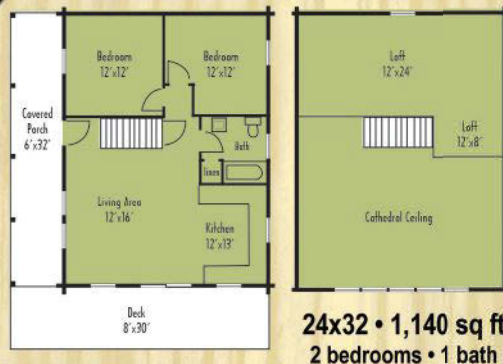
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*Swiftwater*

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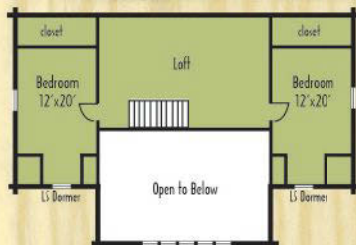
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*Linwood*

**Complete Package Price**  
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

**\$93,950**  
RETAIL 6x8 Log



**26x48 • 2,256 sq ft**  
**3-5 bedrooms • 2 baths**



photos may vary from actual design





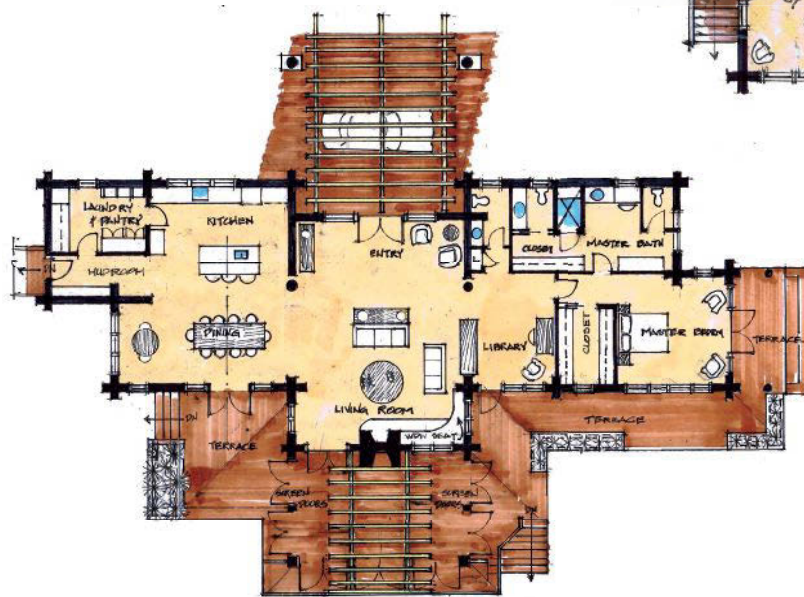
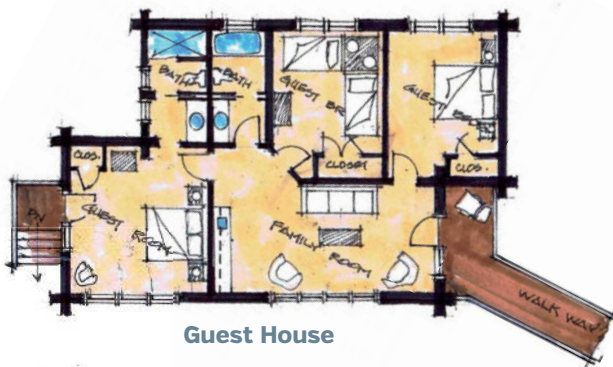
## Sullivan

Main House: 2,486 Sq Ft

Bed: 1 Bath: 1.5

Guest House: 1,070 Sq Ft

Bed: 3 Bath: 2



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## Lake Geneva

Bedroom Up: 1 Baths Up: 1 ½

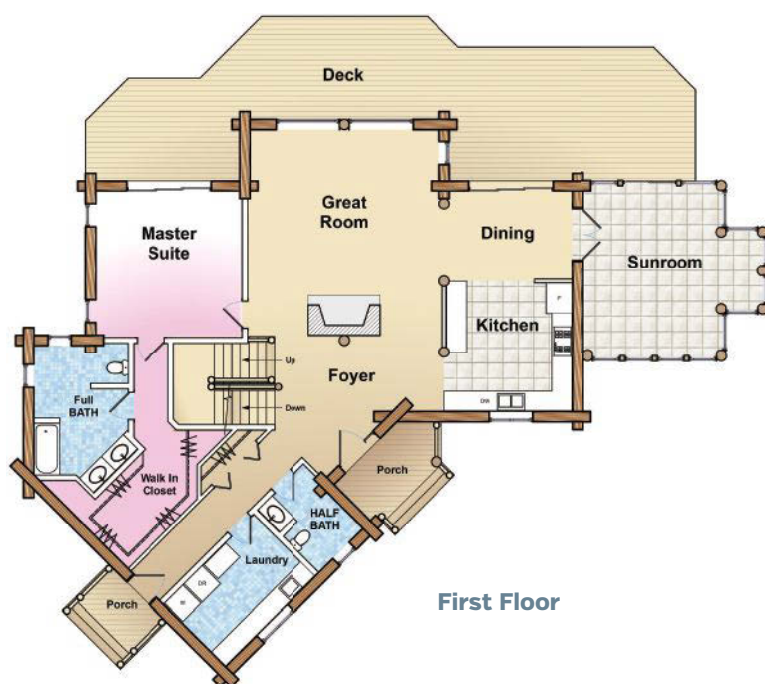
Bedroom Down: 2 Bath Down 1

Optional: Garage

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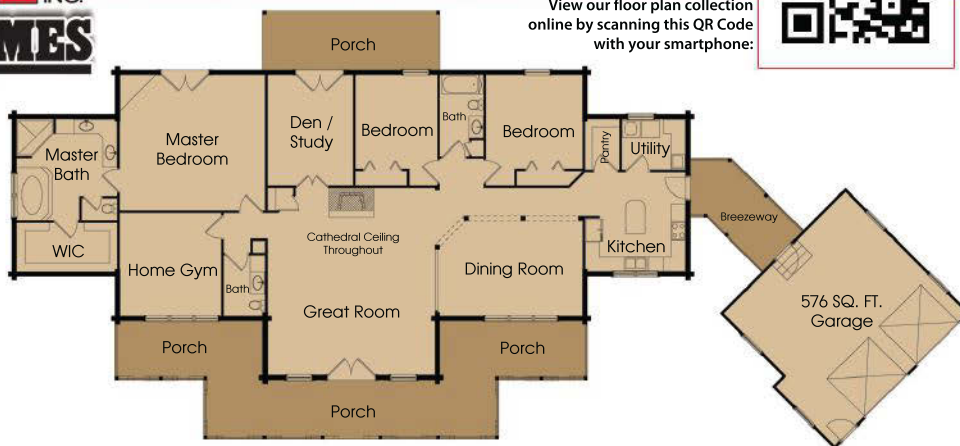
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online by scanning this QR Code  
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## SPIRITWOOD

Bedrooms: 3  
Baths: 2 1/2  
Square Footage: 2,984  
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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## EAGLEDALE

Bedrooms: 1  
Baths: 1 1/2  
Square Footage: 1,456  
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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on our web site at:  
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2nd Floor



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57th Patriot, Military, Police, Firefighters, Life NRA receive bonus. AR-15 Rifle or Freeze Dried Food with every package – inquire.

**Bedrooms: 2 or 3**

**Baths: 2**

**Square Footage: 1,940**

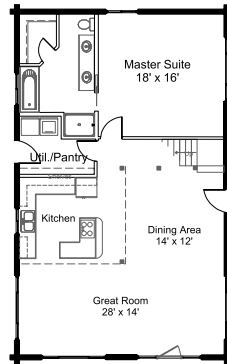
[optional lower level 1,288]

**Liberty Log Cabins**

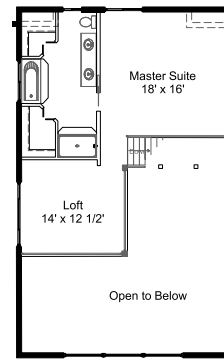
**New Location: Southern Missouri**

**417-531-5729**

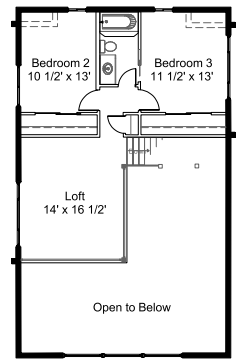
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**First Floor**



**Optional Second Floors**



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57th Patriot, Military, Police, Firefighters, Life NRA receive bonus. AR-15 Rifle or Freeze Dried Food with every package – inquire.

**Bedrooms: 2**

**Baths: 2**

**Square Footage: 1,852**

[optional lower level 1,852]



**Liberty Log Cabins**

**New Location: Southern Missouri**

**417-531-5729**

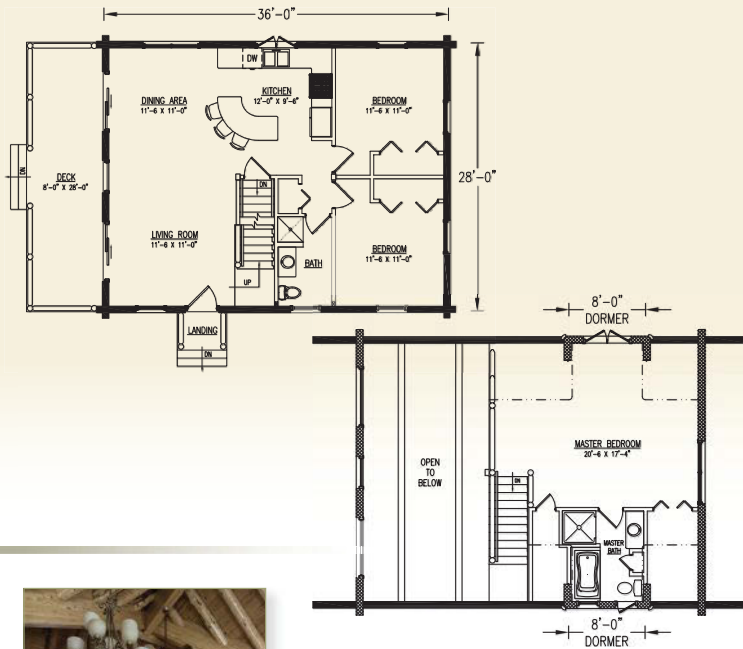
**www.logs.net**



# Welcome Home!

## Lafayette I

Cape Style, 1,484 square feet, 3 Bedrooms/2 Baths



## Hunts Mountain Lodge

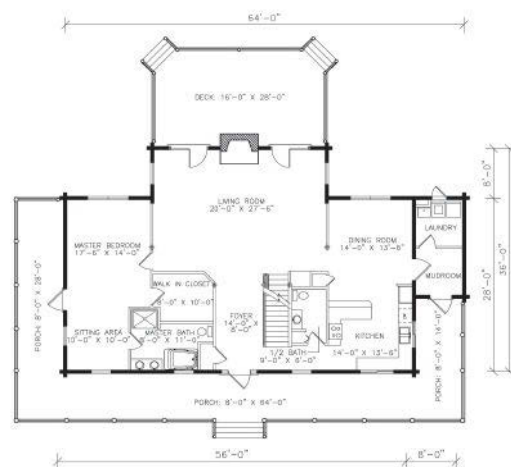
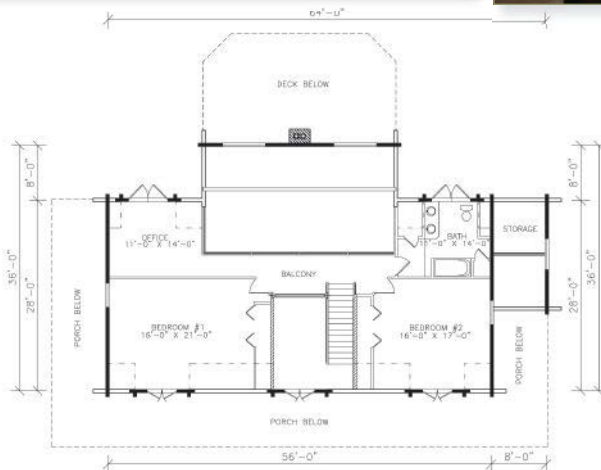
Cape Style, 2,950 square feet, 3 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths



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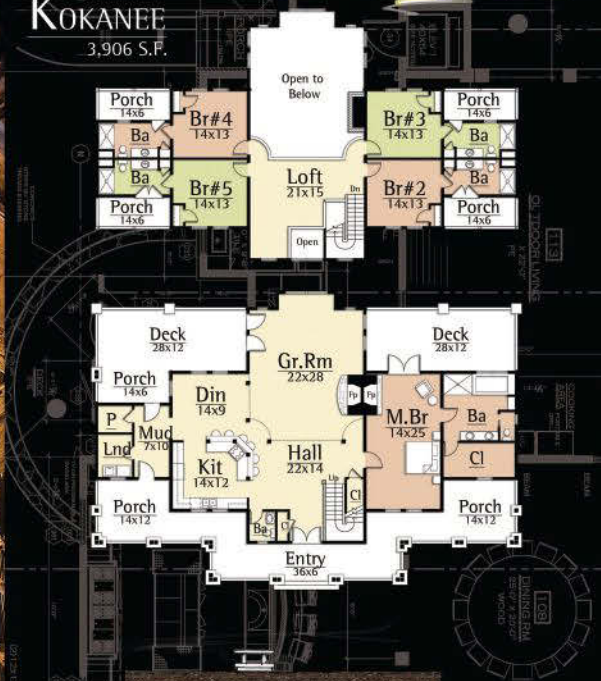
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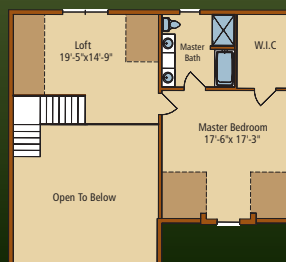


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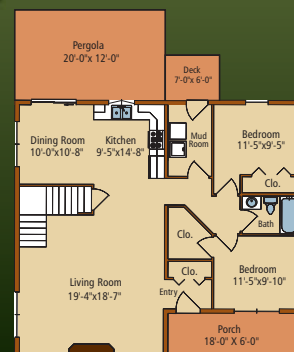


## SHENANGO variation FP1, W7, RR3

3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Total Sq. Ft.: 1,952



Second Floor

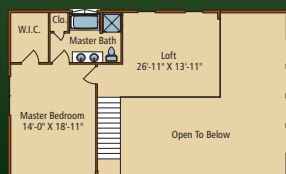


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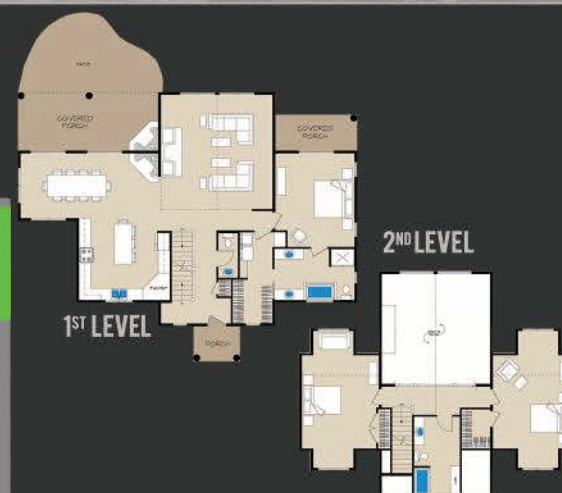
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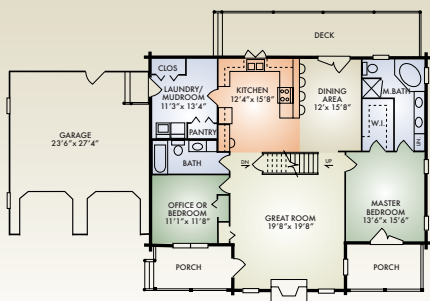
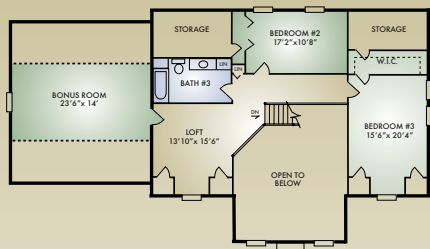




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## The Silverado

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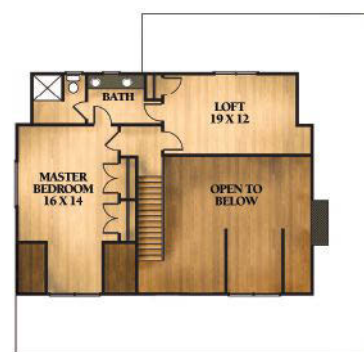
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First Floor



Second Floor



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**p.78**

— *The* —  
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**PLAN**

When planning a small home, it helps to have a few tricks up your sleeve.



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**BUILD**

If you're happy with your home but need more room, consider an addition.



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**STYLE**

Log homes can frame almost any style of decor, so express yourself.



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**MAINTAIN**

Myths abound about log-home maintenance, so learn the facts.





JK Lawrence photo

# COZY TO THE MAX

15 steps to get the most from a small home.

**S**mall log homes remain popular for two reasons: They're affordable and provide close-quarter comfort. Squeezing everything into a cozy design can be challenging, however. When planning your small home, it helps to have a couple of tricks up your sleeve.

**1 Borrow space within an open floor plan.** The fewer walls, the better. Open spaces are more comfortable and allow for versatility. Open floor plans also make your spaces work twice as hard.

**2 Keep it simple.** A square or rectangular floor plan not only saves money, but also eliminates tiny spaces where log work is awkward and difficult to piece together. It also eases the relationship between the builder and homeowner since a simple plan is easier to construct.

**3 Be creative about storage.** Find ways to use every square foot of space. A small home can never have too much storage. Build at least one good-sized closet in every room, then find clever ways to make use of other storage spaces.

**4 Expand upward, not outward.** Whether limited by budget or the size of your site, adding floor levels is less expensive and more effective than expanding the footprint. Cathedral ceilings are nice, but they eat up valuable square footage where an upper level or loft could be built. Raising your ceilings a foot can create a similar effect without wasting any second-floor space. Enclose the space under stairs for storage.

**5 Provide perceived space.** Contrary to the previous point, sometimes implied





## LOG-HOME SITE LOCATION FAQs

Important considerations for where a log home can be built.

[www.loghome.com/log-home-site-location-faqs/](http://www.loghome.com/log-home-site-location-faqs/)

space is more valuable than actual space. You may decide that the open feel of a cathedral ceiling is well worth the space lost by going without the space above it.

**6 Remove extraneous rooms.** Do a thorough self-analysis before designing your home. By cutting space from bedrooms and bathrooms, you can add crucial square footage to other rooms. Keep living spaces and common areas as big as possible.

**7 Eliminate hallways.** They take up space for little benefit. Removing a hall that separates the kitchen and dining rooms results in more usable space, and you can still get to the living room just as easily.

**8 Use outdoor spaces to expand living space.** Besides bringing you closer to the outdoors, porches and decks provide overflow space for homeowners and guests. Dormers, bump-outs, breakfast nooks with bay windows and gabled entry elements also expand living space. Clerestory windows and lofts with views bring in natural light, further blurring the line between inside and outside spaces.

**9 Use thoughtful decor.** Finish your rooms in ways that maximize the perceived space. A monotonous space without depth and shadow feels lifeless and smaller than it actually is. Adding depth and accents through lighting and trim details makes spaces feel larger and more alive.

**10 Provide a focal point.** If you have one focal point per room (fireplace, stairs, wall of windows, etc.) your rooms will feel comfortable and less cluttered — an important consideration when dealing with small spaces.

**11 Incorporate space-conscious stair and fireplace design.** Straight stairs require less room than U-shape or right-angle stairs. Avoid curved stairs. Spiral stairs and ladders are good space savers but aren't very functional, especially when transporting bulky objects. Choose a fireplace that doesn't eat up space, then place it where it maximizes square footage.

**12 Keep small kitchens functional.** A 30-inch-wide refrigerator, con-

ventional four-burner range and a pair of sinks make an adequate kitchen. Allow 18 to 24 inches of counter space on each side of the stove and at least 2 feet on one side of the sink. Use base cabinets below and shelves or upper cabinets above for efficient storage.

**13 Don't sacrifice quality.** Smaller ranges, refrigerators and stacking washer-dryers are available in most trusted name brands.

**14 Keep logs to scale.** The size of logs is very important. Think proportion. Huge logs can make a small home feel even smaller. Use logs that complement the size of your home's rooms. Visit already built log homes to see how log size affects the look and perceived size of each.

**15 Finish the basement.** A finished basement adds inexpensive yet functional space. This lower-level space works well for secondary bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms and rec rooms. **U**

## STORAGE TIPS



For upper level storage, build a knee wall directly under the eaves.

Instead of a table at the entry, place a cabinet with enclosed storage underneath for boots and shoes, like this Wade Bench from PotteryBarn.com (available in two sizes and finishes, starting at \$749).

If you prefer to see logs all around your kitchen, a good builder ought to be able to attach your cabinets directly to the log walls without problems. Many other options for concealing water lines and vent pipes are available.

Raise your bed 5 to 10 inches to gain extra storage space beneath it.



## Ask Professor Rob

*We are having a hard time deciding on the builder and log-home company we want to work with. How do we make a final decision? We don't want to make the wrong choice.*

**A:** Choosing the right builder and log producer for your dream home can sometimes seem difficult. Here are three tips that might help.

**1 Take advantage of event opportunities.** If a company is having an open house or a home tour, sign up. See if they have a tour of their mill or production facilities, too. Not only are these a lot of fun and will give you great ideas, but they will also go a long way toward helping you decide who is the best fit for you.

**2 Do some homework and check them out.** You would check a trip advisor before you stayed in a hotel, right? Check out builder candidates' past work and talk to their past customers for some honest reviews.

**3 Make sure you are a good match.** Does the company you are looking at offer the style of home you like (log profile, design)? Do they build in your area? And most of all, do they offer (or can they help you find) all the services you need to make your dream a reality?

In the end, your choice will become clear. You will discover through your efforts the company that can do what you want, where you want and how you want it done.

Good luck with your home — and don't forget to send us a picture when it's finished.

*Rob Clutter conducts half-day University sessions at the Log & Timber Home Show and other locations. For a class schedule and to register, visit the website: [thelogandtimberhomeshow.com](http://thelogandtimberhomeshow.com)*

**Got a question for Professor Rob?**



**E-MAIL YOUR  
QUESTIONS TO:**

[askrob@loghomeliving.com](mailto:askrob@loghomeliving.com)



## BEFORE CHANGING A PLAN ... THINK.

Many homebuyers start with a log-home company's stock plan, making alterations to tailor it to their liking. If you plan to alter an existing plan, consider these qualifiers.

**STRUCTURAL LIMITATIONS.** A stock plan's load-bearing walls or posts have been strategically placed to help support the roof. If the changes you'd like to make disrupt those structural elements, new plans may need to be drawn from scratch.

**YOUR BUDGET.** Watch out for costly changes. While rearranging the placement of windows in a stock plan is easy, adding a feature wall filled with large window units can quickly tack thousands of dollars onto a home's bottom line.



**THE BIG PICTURE.** Changes in one part of a plan might affect other areas of the home. If you'd like to move a stairway, the new placement must provide the necessary headroom. Moving a bathroom will require the proper pathways for plumbing to be run.





## Simplify Second Homes

Planning a second home with an eye toward simplicity allows you to stray from the norms of primary homes. The space and amenities you want in a home you inhabit 365 days a year may be overkill in a weekend home.

**Know where to spend money and where to scrimp.** Don't want to spend vacation time cooking? Plan a basic kitchen and use the money saved to pay for amenities that would be better used and more appreciated.

**An open floor plan makes homes feel much larger.** By paring down the number of interior walls, the kitchen, great room and dining become all one connected space, allowing for family gathering.

**A second home doesn't require as much clothes storage space.** You see fewer walk-in closets when most guests are living out of a suitcase.

ABOVE: James Ray Spain photo; LEFT: MossCreek photo

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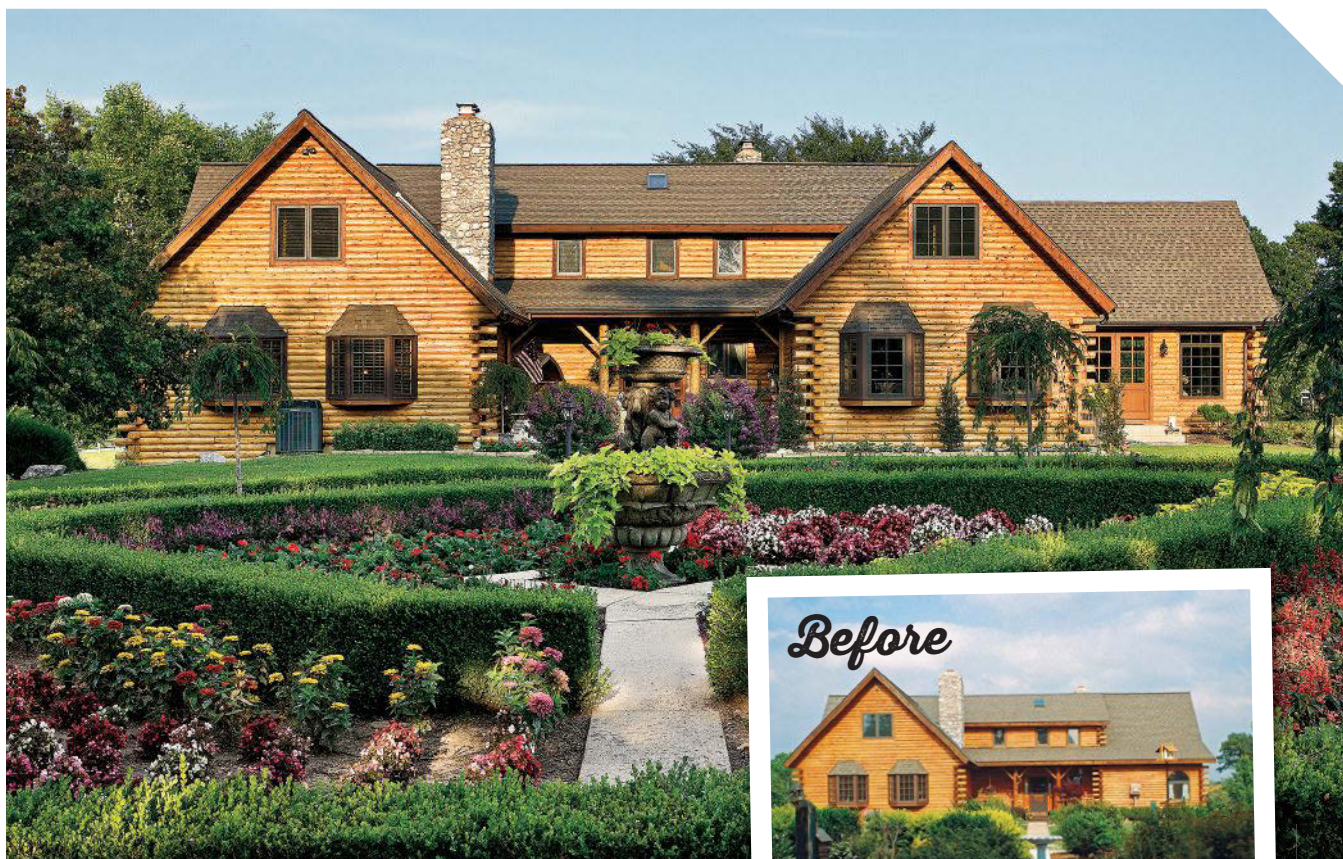
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# UPSIZING IN PLACE

Adding on involves planning, to match new logs to old. **By Jim Cooper**

**L**og homes are planned and built to last. As time passes, you may find yourself needing more room. If so, consider an addition, especially if you're happy with your current home.

The biggest decision is whether to build a second level or tack space onto the main floor. It involves a number of factors: your building site, design of both your existing home and the proposed addition, and your budget. Because both options will likely affect your existing structure, discuss them with an architect, structural engineer or general contractor.

**ADDING UP.** Most foundations can handle the weight of a second level without much modification. A simple addition could consist of a couple dormers to turn attic space into usable square footage while keeping demolition and cost reasonable. It's more costly to remove the roof and add a full second story because you pay both to demolish a perfectly good roof and then to replace it.

Introducing a second level also means adding a staircase. A basic staircase requires an area 12 to 16 feet long and 3.5 feet wide. Inserting a landing can break runs into shorter lengths.

**The most important consideration when building an addition is to design it so that it meshes with the original building and looks like it has always been there.**

**BUILDING OUT.** Expanding your main level is similar to building from scratch. Your addition will require its own foundation, walls and access to your existing home. Your builder will need to plan how the walls and roof of the addition attach to the house.

If your site has the room, building out can cost less than building up. Plus, building up means putting up with workers traipsing through your house and construction noise inside your home; building out means noise and activity take place mostly outside the regular flow of household activities.





## 5 ESSENTIAL LOG-HOME BUILDING TIPS

Savvy builder Jim Cooper advises how to ensure a hassle-free project.

[www.loghome.com/5-essential-building-tips-from-a-pro/](http://www.loghome.com/5-essential-building-tips-from-a-pro/)

Either way, matching logs can be challenging. Existing log walls may have had several years to settle. Joints between your new logs may initially match those in existing walls when the addition is finished but be out of place after several years of shrinkage.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS.** When adding a solid-log addition to a solid-log house, it's best to set posts where the two meet and attach the logs to the posts rather than to each other. Doing so lets the addition respond independently to shrinkage and settlement. Points of attachment between the new and old buildings always pose risks for air- and water-tightness and for energy efficiency. A weather-tight union requires skilled carpenters with log-building experience.

Depending on the construction of your home and addition, shrinkage may be an important factor. If your home is solid log and fairly new, some settlement may be still occurring. This could strain connections to the addition and contribute to air and water leakage or structural issues.

If your solid-log home is more than three or four years old, chances are most settlement has already taken place. However, adding a solid log addition introduces the possibility of settlement there. New walls may lose from 1 inch to several inches in height during their first years. This can create stress where the addition meets the house if the two aren't joined properly.

Try isolating the log walls of the addition from the main home, as noted previously, to keep their settlement separate. Carpenters used to working with logs sometimes create slip joints that keep the wall joints tight as they settle. Building with the driest logs available also helps minimize shrinkage and settlement.

Often the best solution for an addition is to use log siding over conventional framing or structural insulated panels (SIPs). Because log siding usually contains less moisture than solid logs, dimensions won't change much, thereby improving the prospect of matching the log joints and making it easier to create a tight seal.

As an alternative, consider a timber-frame, conventional-frame or half-log-covered SIP addition. These systems don't settle and should have little impact on your existing log home. It's also easier to create a lasting, weather-tight union between your existing home and addition.

With thoughtful planning, your only limitations are your imagination and your budget. Architects and engineers often save you more than they cost by recognizing possibilities and potential pitfalls. Check building requirements with local building officials. In many areas, you will need a building permit, as well as specialty permits, such as electrical, plumbing, footings and foundation, for your project. You may also need to submit blueprints and structural drawings that have been approved by an architect or licensed engineer. **U**

*Jim Cooper is author of Log Homes Made Easy and a LEED Accredited Professional who consults in energy-efficient and sustainable building.*

## TIP

Adding a loft to a cathedral ceiling area can be an easy way to gain floor space. A loft floor consists of either heavy timber or conventional floor joists covered with sheathing and flooring. Depending on the length the joists will span, you may also need a girder beam supported by posts beneath it.

It's challenging to match the appearance of the new and old logs, as aged logs typically are darker, and it's difficult to stain new logs to match. Isolating the new construction from the old with trim or other design features helps reduce potential color differences.



Joe Hilliard photo



# Living on the Edge

**M**ountainsides, cliffs and slopes offer appealing views for log homes, but they also represent structural challenges and added construction costs. If you're considering a cliffhanger, here's how to take advantage of your site.

**REVERSE YOUR LAYOUT.** Sloping sites allow a more modest appearance from the front and a grander one from the rear, especially with dramatic windows, such as prowls. Put your "front" door behind the house.

**HAVE YOUR DRIVEWAY ACCESS THE HOME FROM ABOVE, NOT BELOW.** You'll avoid having to cut the driveway into the side of the hill and build retaining walls to keep dirt and stone from falling onto it. Placing your garage at the front of the top level opens up views at all levels in back of the home.

**BUILD TALL.** Taller homes with smaller footprints require less excavation and grading, both of which are major construction expenses. And a narrow, stacked house with an open floor plan can bring views to all or most rooms.

**CREATE A DAYLIGHT BASEMENT IN THE EXCAVATED WEDGE AREA UNDER HOMES ON THE DOWNSIDE SLOPE.** You'll create a great view with an additional room, instead of an underused crawl space, and without enlarging your home's footprint.

**AVOID BUILDING ON THE VERY TOP OF A HILL OR MOUNTAIN.** A panoramic view is great, but it will also raise your heating costs by exposing the home to cold winds in winter. Use the slope to shelter the house and narrow the view's focus.

**SITE YOUR HOUSE TO AVOID WINTER SHADE AND SUMMER SUN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.**

**MAKE THE HOUSE PART OF THE VIEW.** Build to conform to the land's contours, and blend rather than clash with the topography.



## Recycle Those Trees

If you're clearing a wooded lot to build your log home, don't hire someone to haul away the trees you cut down. At the very least, they'll probably make good firewood. But you might be able to do better.

In a few cases, the trees you cut down can be used for your house logs. Just be careful about mixing species. You can also use felled trees for flooring, stairs and trim.

If you have or can rent a portable sawmill, you might be able to tackle the job yourself. Or have a local sawmill cut the wood to your specifications.

Branches make good stair railings and add other rustic touches. Smaller tree trunks can be cut into fireplace mantels.

If you're handy with a chain saw or know someone who is, you can even carve figures from trunks. Bears are especially popular.

LEFT: James Ray Spahn photo; TOP: Satterwhite Log Homes/Danny Grizzle photo





## Ask About Log Delivery

**S**ome producers include delivery costs in their log-package price. Others will add it to the total cost of the package by charging either a flat fee or a fee based on mileage.

- You may want to know if the logs will be delivered by common carrier or the company's own trucks.
- Ask if the driver will help unload, or if you must supply labor.
- Ask how much notice you will receive of delivery date and time,

and if the truck is late, who will pay for extra man-hours or equipment rental charges.

- You'll need to know what kind of equipment will be used to unload the truck and how it will be unloaded: Will the first logs off the truck be the last ones needed for construction?
- Note how much room will be needed to maneuver the truck and turn it around on the job site.

## Build in Stages

There are many reasons to build a home in phases. Maybe your initial budget is limited. Maybe you plan to build a seasonal home now, then live there full-time in the future. Or maybe you want to build it yourself. Here are some points to consider.

**Discuss your plans carefully with your designer or architect** from the start to help make future construction easier.

**Plan where and how later phases will be linked** to the original structure. For instance, attaching new construction to a solid corner post may be easier than attaching to a corner with exposed log ends.

**Decide if you want to match log styles** or mix exterior materials in each phase.

**Keep an open mind.** You might love the reduced maintenance and utility costs of a small home so much that you decide not to expand in the future.



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Rocky Mountain Log Homes photo

# EXPRESS YOURSELF

Furnishings set the stage to reveal your personal style. **By Joyce Standridge**

**“D**on’t go for second best,” Madonna advises in her hit song, “Express Yourself.” Heed her words.

A mistake in clothing is easily fixed. Even the choice in a car is a limited-period experience, and you know that before making the purchase. However, while homes, and the furniture inside, may not last forever, the setting and surroundings in which a person or family lives expresses who the homeowner is in a way that no other possession does.

Even most people who utilize the expertise of a professional interior

designer expect to offer direction and make decisions regarding selection. The choice of furnishings says more about how a person sees the world — and wants the world to see him or her.

Functionality is key, of course, but since log homes are a setting that can frame almost any style of decor, homeowners are often more focused on creating a statement. The trick in all this is knowing what type of furnishing style best expresses who you are. Here are the more common styles and what they say, without the need to articulate.

## TRADITIONAL

This is the style that isn’t really a stylish-style. There is nothing bold about it. It’s the accountant of styles, which is not a bad thing at all. In fact, it’s nearly impossible to mess up. What it says about the homeowners is that they are careful, not given to wild spurts of trendiness that will have to be updated regularly, and interested in a setting that is timeless. Well-planned, traditional pieces will be just as comfortable and attractive in two decades as the day they are placed in the home. Surprisingly, traditional pieces are often also selected for more adventurous types who want simplicity and timelessness as the backdrop for trendy accoutrements.





## LOG-HOME ROOM IDEAS

Find inspiration for your dream home's design.

[www.loghome.com/room-ideas/](http://www.loghome.com/room-ideas/)



LEFT: Satterwhite Log Homes/Danny Grizzle photo; BELOW: Rich Frutchev photo

## WESTERN/ SOUTHWESTERN

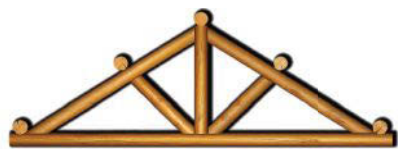
Seemingly the opposite of Country, it's really just a different approach to the same commitment to comfort and history, only in different fashion. Regardless of geographic location, it chooses leather and generously woven fabric. You don't have to be the Lone Ranger (or Tonto) to appreciate the generous proportions that embraces expansive living. This style somehow combines both outgoing personality and conservative appreciation for the past. People who don't see themselves as wedded to modern life often view this style as a soothing tribute to a simpler life, without actually giving up 21st-century comfort.

## COUNTRY

Especially for those who build in the eastern United States and Canada, Country style is popular. It's not a geographic influence so much as a reflection of a deeper sense of roots and a longer history. Country pays homage to the past, and square logs with a darker patina often appeal to the same person who wants the interior to reflect that same appreciation. Homeowners who want to include collections, whether antique or recently acquired, lean in this direction. This is the style for people who are not going to stop adding possessions when they first turn the key. It's not Crazy Aunt Nelda-style, but it can be her mildly eccentric sister, who also wants to be comfortable.







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12"	\$13.94 L.F.	\$11.14 L.F.
14"	\$16.54 L.F.	\$14.26 L.F.
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Photo depicts a 10" cabin appearance kit.

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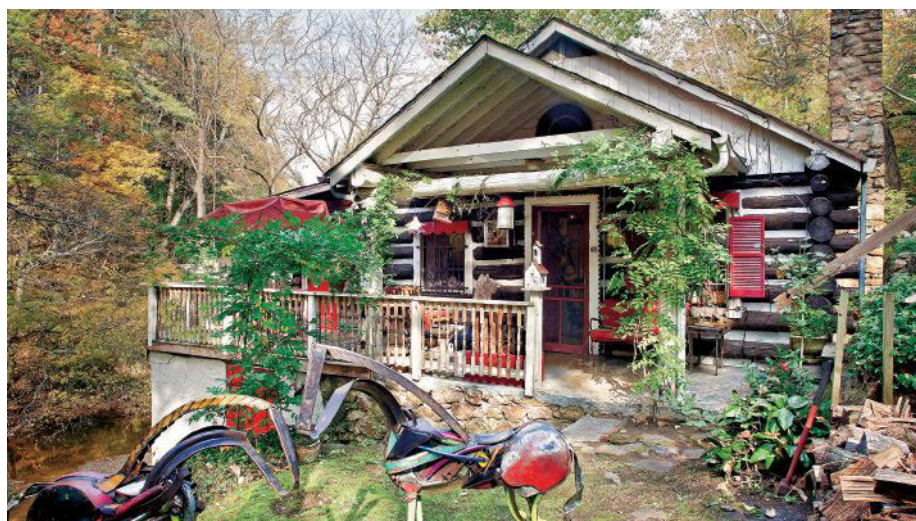
## CONTEMPORARY

Here is the styling for those who want a clean, sparser setting. Contemporary is a trickier style to pull off in a log setting because wood's softer texture seems counterintuitive for the brasher elements that define Contemporary (also called Mid-Century Modern). Sharp corners, straight lines and no fussiness work fine when selected with care and attention to detail, especially more conservative color. If appreciation for simplicity is inherent in the homeowners' approach to life, go for it.



LEFT: Rocky Mountain Log Homes photo; RIGHT: James Ray Spahn photo





## WHATEVER

It's not necessary to watch HGTV regularly to understand that a couple can possess very different personalities, goals and expectations for expression. Often, within a circle of friends, it's possible to see that dynamic in action. So, who wins when it's time to establish the style of a home either through new construction or a remodel? Well, it's possible that everyone can win simply by throwing the rules out the window. Some people call this Eclectic style. Whatever moniker it wears, it is the daring, bold way to approach decor. Combining the piece that speaks to one person with another piece appealing to another family member may take patience and plenty of thought, but in the end, it's more important that a home and its furnishings say, "This is who these people are. This is how they chose to express themselves." **U**

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Often it's the details you don't notice right away that make your house a home, like the woodland creatures hiding around this inviting porch. Highlighted by the bold colors of the furniture and decor, it's no wonder this space earns a top spot in the house. **By Edie Mann**



**1.** Fishing pole table lamp, \$108.99 (overstock.com; 800-843-2446). **2.** 12" rustic twig wall sconce, \$296.00 (cabinbasics.com; 585.755.4272). **3.** Iron frog plant-hanger bracket, \$12.99 (lindaanderson.com; 800-621-3411). **4.** Squirrel base starting at \$55.00 (savemoreproducts.com; 801-621-4213).



5



6



7



5. Area runner in Zipcode Design, \$24 (wayfair.com) 6. Outdoor director's chairs in aqua, \$89.00 for two (onekinglane.com). 7, 8, & 9. Wicker furniture and accessories from Pier 1. Cushion and pillow shown in Red Piper; Casba chair in green; Settee and end table from Santa Barbara collection, in light brown. (pier1.com; 800-245-4595).

James Ray Spahn photo

8



9



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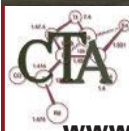
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Perma-Chink Systems photo

# STRAIGHT TALK

10 myths about log-home maintenance.

By Michael McArthur

**Y**ou're probably aware of the concerns some people have about log-home maintenance. Horror stories have been told about how homes quickly fell into disrepair and thousands of dollars were spent bringing them back to its original beauty.

The real story is how they got that way. The homeowners were either unaware of wood upkeep or neglected to take care of it. But if you educate yourself and plan ahead, you will need a minimal amount of time, money and effort to invest in your log-home maintenance regimen. The following facts should help

dispel some of the myths and put you on the road to sound home management.

**MYTH: Log-home maintenance takes a lot of time.**

**FACT: It doesn't have to.** If you plan ahead and design your home properly, you can save yourself a lot of work. Large overhangs, porches, proper landscaping and tall foundations will prevent maintenance nightmares. A log home is not a conventional home and will require non-conventional maintenance, but as long as you are aware of this up front,

All homes require maintenance. Log homes are no exception. But because they're built with wood, people unfamiliar with this durable material spread all sorts of misconceptions.

you can design and plan for this.

**MYTH: Log-home maintenance is complicated.**

**FACT: Not necessarily.** The most important factor is to keep logs clean. Clean and dry the surface before and after you stain, and keep the dust, pollen and mold off your logs every season. Pay special attention to the south and west walls of your home, as they are more susceptible to the elements. If this seems too time consuming, you can hire a service that manages the maintenance of your home.





## LOG-HOME MAINTENANCE FAQs

Answered by Log Home Living's own editor, Roland Sweet.

[www.loghome.com/log-home-maintenance-faqs/](http://www.loghome.com/log-home-maintenance-faqs/)

### **MYTH: Log homes have mold problems.**

**FACT: All surfaces can have mold problems.** The more moisture there is, the more mold will grow. Shady trees, drippy rooflines and backsplash all contribute. The more moisture there is, the more mold and mildew will attach and grow. If you keep your logs dry and off the ground, they can last a lifetime.

### **MYTH: Log homes have insect problems.**

**FACT: The industry has come a long way over the past 25 years.** We don't have the termite problems of the past, thanks to the use of borate, a natural mineral that keeps bugs from wanting to eat your logs.

The major problem today is carpenter bees. The best way to repel them is to use liquid formulations containing permethrin and cyfluthrin and dusts containing boric acid. Once bees are gone, plug holes with steel wool and caulk, followed by a finish stain.

### **MYTH: Log-home stains are not "green."**

**FACT: The stains of the past, with high volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that were harmful to the air, have been reformulated to reduce these pollutants.** Oil-based stains have been wrongly maligned; water-diluted petrochemical stains are not any "greener" than wood stains utilizing modern vegetable oil-based technologies. While designing compliant oil-based stains requires a greater degree of formulating expertise and sophistication than their water-based counterparts, oil-based stains will continue to maintain a strong, viable and "green" presence.

### **MYTH: All log stains are basically the same.**

**FACT: Each stain company has its own system and formulations, all working hard to do the best job for the longest period of time and for the most reasonable price.** This has created a multitude of systems across the country, plus local hardware stores that offer basic exterior wood stains.

Your best bet is to educate yourself on all the systems and try to determine what will work best for your situation. The type of wood, the environmental conditions and the age of the home all play a role in the decision making, as do time and price.

### **MYTH: I can buy a good stain from the local hardware store.**

**FACT: Basic stain products are OK and probably affordable, but the reduction in price will be reflected in the reduction in quality.** This will cost you in the long run.

Find a log-home supply store or go online to view all companies. You may want to ask local log-home owners what they use. A good log-home stain is formulated to prevent moisture from entering the fiber of your logs and has the right amount of pigment to prevent sun damage. A log-home stain will give you the best overall look for your home.

### **MYTH: If you live in a dry area you can get by with less staining.**

**FACT: A stain's main functions are to repel moisture from being absorbed by the wood and to protect the surface from the sun's damaging UV rays.** Dry areas usually have lots of sun, and you want to prevent wood degradation. The pigment in the stain helps with this.

Large overhangs and porches can also help, but stain is still required to keep the logs in prime condition.

### **MYTH: Oil-based stain is better than water-based stain.**

### **FACT: Sometimes it is presumed that oil-based stains are better.**

That is not necessarily so, if the stain is applied according to manufacturers directions and a good maintenance plan is implemented.

Depending on sun exposure and humidity levels where you live, any of the stains can be recommended. Color may also be a factor as to the choice of stain. All of the stains have different shades of different colors. Oil stain is often a thicker product and can often hold more pigment than its water-based counterpart.

Remember that if you have an oil-based stain on the logs, you must stay with an oil-based product, unless it is thoroughly removed. Check with the manufacturer's recommendation.

### **MYTH: Cracks in log homes are a problem.**

**FACT: Cracks are a natural characteristic of logs and nothing to worry about, unless they are on the topside of an exterior log where rain, snow and dirt can accumulate.** The best prevention method is to clean the log surfaces well, add borate rods to prevent moisture retention, fill with a backer rod and then caulk. Make sure that all new cracks are treated with borate, stained and then caulked.

*Michael McArthur is manager of the Log Home Products Division of the Continental Products Co., which manufactures wood coatings for the log-home industry. U*



## Easy Upgrades

If your log home – especially a weekend cabin – is looking a tad tired, and a major renovation isn't in the cards, here are several ways to transform the look and feel, as well as the performance of your home, courtesy of designer Marianne Cusato. Prices start at a few hundred dollars, and most can be done by handy homeowners.

**Install a closet system.** Nothing makes your house feel smaller than clutter. Organized closets that are well fitted absorb exponentially more than a single rod and shelf. Once your closets are organized, the rest of your house will feel transformed. Options are plentiful, including do-it-yourself systems from IKEA and the Container Store or custom installations by California Closets.

**Install new hardware.** Upgrade doorknobs and cabinet hardware throughout your house. Avoid bright brass or dark finishes like rubbed bronze, both of which are dated looks. Opt for nickel or chrome or, if you select brass, look for finishes that are unlacquered or



antiqued. For doors, consider egg-shaped or crystal knobs for a distinctive look. Knobs are available from Home Depot, Lowe's and other big-box chains. Nice ones range in price from \$75 to \$125 per set. If you want a higher-end product, Baldwin Hardware offers a wide range of stock and customizable combinations, starting at around \$150 per set. [baldwinhardware.com]

**Upgrade kitchen cabinets.** You have several options, depending on the condition of your cabinets, the cabinet material and your budget. Easiest and most affordable, as noted above, is replacing cabinet knobs (\$2 to \$15 each). If you want the look of new cabinets without the price, you can replace the doors. If you have solid wood cabinets, sand them down and varnish or paint them.

baldwinhardware.com photo



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Also keep in mind that any natural preservatives are effective primarily when the trees are alive in their native habitat. Applied preservatives compensate for any differences. In fact, you'd be wise to apply preservatives to all logs, whatever species.

Be sure to use a preservative that is formulated especially for logs. There have been some big advances in these products, both in terms of performance and environmental considerations. Never try to cut corners by using deck stain or multi-surface water sealer.

**Got a question for Randy the Handyman?**

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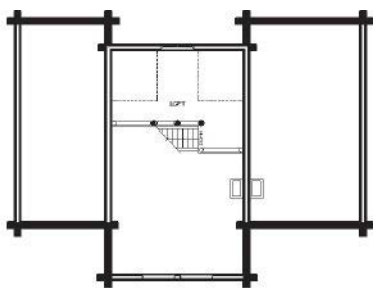
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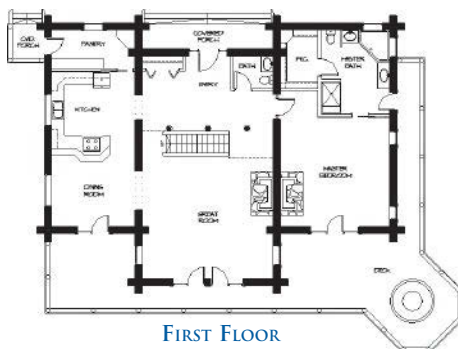
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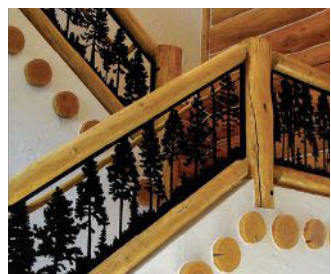


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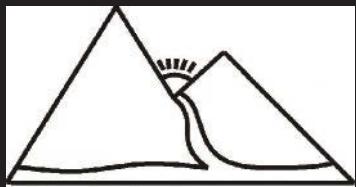
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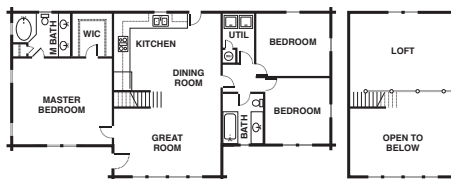


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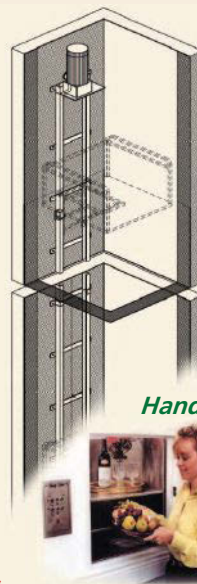
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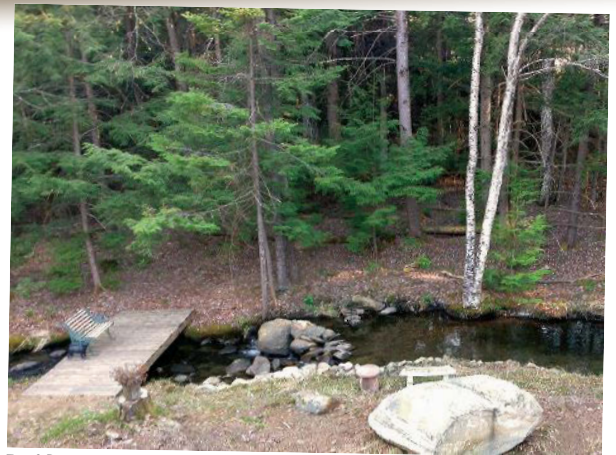
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